



# FREE PARKING TO JINGLE TILLS

Report by Richard Guttridge

**SHOPPERS** across Dudley will be offered free parking in the run up to Christmas – but could face increased charges after a review by council bosses.

Money coming in from its car parks is one of the main spending pressures affecting the cash-strapped authority, which must save £20 million by 2018. Dudley Council is on course to make £700,000 less than expected from parking fees over the next three years.

Bosses at the authority say the shortfall is due to a reduction in the number of parking spaces across the borough.

The council announced it would offer free parking during the run up to Christmas to bring more visitors into borough towns.

Free parking will be offered all day on December 5, 12 and 19 in all of the council-run car parks.

Bosses said they had taken the decision in an effort to boost trade across the borough.

Free parking will also be offered after 4pm on Saturday November 21, 28 and December 5 to coincide with the annual Christmas lights switch-on events in Halesowen, Brierley Hill and Stourbridge.

## Incentive

In terms of the review, opposition councillors have called for parking fees in the borough to be reduced as an incentive for people to spend in the borough's towns and villages rather than elsewhere.

Currently, its costs motorists either 60p or 70p to park on council car parks in the borough for an hour and £1.20 or £1.40 for two hours. A stay of over three hours costs up to £3.50.

Tory councillor David Blood, a former finance chief for the council, said an increase in parking fees was a possibility.

He added: "My belief is there should always be cheap parking, so people use it. This is where the problem occurs for Dudley Council because if you have excessive parking charges, people won't come into Dudley."

A council report said there would be a review in order to "ensure parking provision encourages access to key retail and economic centres across the borough".

As a result of the review, the council aims to save £295,000 by 2018.

Cabinet member for environmental services Councillor Hilary Bills said: "The council will be undertaking a review of the borough-wide parking strategy as it is important our parking provision complements the substantial regeneration projects across the borough."

"It will not only look at charging but other issues as well."

## COLLABRO LAUNCH FESTIVE LIGHTS AT MERRY HILL



Hands on – popera group Collabro on stage with Father Christmas to switch on the Christmas lights at Intu Merry Hill

BRITAIN'S Got Talent winners Collabro helped to switch on the Christmas lights at Merry Hill as thousands of people attended to see the festive season officially get under way at the giant shopping centre.

The Intu-owned complex in Brierley Hill hosted a packed weekend of entertainment for visitors.

Proceedings kicked off at 11am on Saturday with singers and performers taking to the stage set up on the ground floor near River Island.

The event saw Collabro joined by hula hoop

specialists Hoop La La and dancing act with a difference Old Men Grooving – all of whom have shot to fame in recent years thanks to Britain's Got Talent.

Birmingham-based vocal group Sons of Pitches, which recently won Gareth Malone's Naked Choir TV choral contest, also delighted the audience with song.

Another regular crowd-favourite Titan the Robot was also on hand to entertain shoppers, instantly becoming top of every child's Christmas list.

The switch-on followed Santa's parade

around the centre which started and finished at the main stage ready for the countdown. Parents can now can now book places for children to visit Santa's grotto with slots available up until Christmas Eve.

The centre's opening times are being increased gradually from now until Christmas Day.

The lights were also switched on in Dudley town centre on Saturday. Actor Kascion Franklin, who starred in Lenny Henry's hit BBC drama Danny and the Human Zoo, was given the honour.

## MARKET

### Towns get lit up with family events

HALESOWEN gets into the festive spirit on Saturday with its annual Christmas lights switch-on – and a visit by a giant robot.

There will be more lights than ever thanks to sponsorship from businesses funding the £13,000 display.

The town will be packed with a market and a programme of family entertainment from 11am, through until the big switch-on at 5pm. Father Christmas will also be putting in an appearance at the event organised by Halesowen Chamber of Trade.

Blackheath will also be switching on its festive lights at 6pm (see page 16).

## FIRE

### Family flee car dashboard blaze

A MOTHER and her two young children were forced to flee their Vauxhall Zafira after the dashboard caught fire.

Crews from Brierley Hill were called to Commonside, Pensnett, at around 10.15am on Monday.

The woman was able to get her children, a two-year-old and a baby, out of the car quickly.

Vauxhall recalled thousands of Zafira models earlier this month after more than 130 owners reported overheating problems behind the glove-box.

## APPEAL

### Firm support offered to Operation Santa

CHARTERED accountancy firm Nicklin, based in Halesowen, is supporting the Operation Santa appeal run by Dudley Council.

Donations are being invited to help youngsters from less privileged backgrounds that would otherwise go without Christmas presents. Last year's appeal was the most successful ever with more than 12,000 donations.

Donated items such as books, games, stationery, toiletries and toys, or non-perishable food items, can be left at the Nicklin office in Church Court, Stourbridge Road, before December 8.

## INSIDE

### AMIRA HELPS RAISE £3.7M



PAGE 5

**JORDANS SOLICITORS**

*Friendly, efficient and price competitive*



Here at  
**Jordans Solicitors**  
we offer, Conveyancing  
both Residential and  
Commercial, Wills and  
Probate, Powers of Attorney  
& Family Law...

If the regular office hours 9.00am to 5.00pm  
Monday to Friday are not very convenient  
for you we can offer Thursday evening and  
Saturday morning

1 Summer Hill, Halesowen B63 3BU Tel: 0121 585 3900  
35 Payne Street, Blackheath, West Midlands B65 0DH  
Telephone: 0121 559 2922

[www.jordans-solicitors.co.uk](http://www.jordans-solicitors.co.uk)



<b>CONTENTS</b>	
<b>MARK ANDREWS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>LETTERS</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>CLUBS</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>THE FAST TICKET</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>PUZZLES</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>PROPERTY</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>MOTORING</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>SPORT</b>	<b>39 &amp; 40</b>
<b>CONTACT US</b>	

**EDITORIAL:**  
Tel: 01384 353201/01384 353205  
E-mail: dudley.chronos@expressandstar.co.uk

**SPORTS:**  
Tel: 01902 319453  
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

**PHOTOGRAPHIC:**  
Tel: John Sambrooks 01902 319431

**ADVERTISING:** Nicola Cope  
Tel: 01902 319573  
E-mail: nicola.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

**PROPERTY:** Marguerita Finnegan  
Tel: 01902 319627  
E-mail: marguerita.finnegan@expressandstar.co.uk

**MOTORING:** Liz Barratt  
Tel: 01384 353244  
E-mail: liz.barratt@expressandstar.co.uk

**CLASSIFIED:**  
Tel: 01902 317878  
E-mail: my-classified@expressandstar.co.uk

**DISTRIBUTION:** Paul Jones  
Tel: 01902 319990  
E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

**51-53 Queen Street**  
**Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES**  
Open Monday to Friday 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm  
[www.yourchronicle.com](http://www.yourchronicle.com)

DON'T MISS YOUR

**Express & Star**

EVERY DAY

**PETER RHODES**

The man who takes a sideways look at life

EVERY SATURDAY

**NIGEL HASTILOW**

He always tackles the hot topics head-on

# Tributes for cyclist killed in accident



Cyclist Nicky Brinton, 21

A KEEN cyclist killed in an accident involving a car has been named as Nicky Brinton, with family members paying tribute to a ‘thoughtful and considerate person’.

Mr Brinton, aged 21, was involved in a collision with a Ford Focus as he cycled along Gillhurst Road in Harborne at around 6.45pm last Wednesday.

Mr Brinton, from Quinton, was taken to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital but died a short time later. His family released a statement which read: “Nicky was the most thoughtful and

considerate person, who had a real positive, fun-loving attitude to life. He will be hugely missed by his family, we are all devastated at his loss.”

Nicky’s brother, Mitchell, had been riding with him when the accident happened. In a moving tribute on his Facebook page, he said he hoped by raising more awareness about cyclists on roads something good could come out of his brother’s death.

He said that his brother, he and another cyclist had gone out with new flashing lights on the front of their

bikes, high visibility vests and wearing the best helmets on the market. He added: “It wasn’t enough to save my brother life.”

The driver of the car involved has been spoken to by police but no arrest has been made.

Pc Karl Davies said: “I would like to thank medical practitioners at the scene and members of the emergency services who fought to save Nicky’s life.

“Anyone who may have witnessed what happened is urged to call the Collision Investigation Unit on 101.”

# Cigarette butt littering fines bring in £20,000

DUDLEY Council has made almost £20,000 from fines for people dropping cigarette butts over the last five years.

Enforcement officers have caught a total of 392 people discarding cigarettes since 2010, racking up fines of £19,707.

Those who drop cigarettes in the borough face a £75 penalty, though this is reduced to £50 if it is paid in the first 10 days.

The number of people being fined for the indiscretion has gradually fallen since 2010/11, when on average two people were caught by enforcement officers every week. The 110 fines that year brought in £5,800. That number fell to 76 the following year before going back up to 89 in 2012/13. A total of 59 people were fined in 2013/14.

During 2014/15, 58 fines were issued, totalling £2,810. The majority of people paid up quickly, with the average amount paid being just over £50.

Dudley Council said that as dropping litter is a criminal offence, it will fine people to ensure the borough’s streets are kept clean.

Smokers have often bemoaned being hit in the pocket but Dudley councillor Ken Finch said he had no sympathy for people who throw cigarettes on the floor.

## Irresponsible

He said: “I don’t think £20,000 is enough compared to the amount it costs the council to collect rubbish that is thrown about by irresponsible people. Personally, I feel very passionate about it and I would love to see enforcement in different areas where people are given automatic fines.

“A cigarette is litter, it doesn’t matter what it is, it’s nothing else but disgusting and until people are fined they are not going to learn.”

On its website, Dudley Council warns people littering is a criminal offence and people who do it will face a fine.

Bosses at Dudley Council have been doing their best to clamp down on all kinds of littering across the borough, with the clean-up bill proving costly for the cash-strapped authority.

Last month it was revealed the council spent £45,000 clearing litter left off the highway, with white goods being dumped on 238 occasions.

## Dogs can sniff out illegal tobacco



Sniffer dog Scamp with handler Stuart Phillips during an awareness event held in Stourbridge

SNIFFER dogs are leading the crackdown on illegal cigarettes and tobacco in Dudley.

Shoppers have been warned how to spot the signs of counterfeit cigarettes during an awareness drive.

Trading standards officers from Dudley Council have been leading an operation in the borough this week.

Officials with sniffer dogs, trained to sniff out illegal tobacco, were in Brierley Hill as part of the awareness operation which had

also been in Stourbridge, Halesowen and Dudley during the week.

It aimed to give the public information about the harm illegal tobacco can cause to individuals, communities and the local economy.

People could see the dogs and watch them sniff out hidden tobacco products during demonstrations.

The council’s health boss, Councillor Rachel Harris, said: “These town centre events provided a

unique opportunity for people to understand the role of specially trained sniffer dogs and the dangers of illegal tobacco.

“While all smoking kills, illegal tobacco is sold at low prices and without the necessary health warnings which makes it easier for children and young smokers to get hooked. If people see this type of illegal activity they need to inform us straight away.”

Call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

# Black Friday here to stay says boss at Merry Hill

THE owner of Merry Hill shopping centre is expecting another massive surge in customers on Black Friday this year, and says efforts by some firms to back-track on the cut-price event will fail.

Intu, which bought the controlling half share in Merry Hill in a £400m deal last year, says the Black Friday ‘genie’ cannot be put back in the bottle.

The UK’s largest owner and manager of shopping centres, Intu says it is expecting Black Friday, on November 27, to be a significant day for retailers, despite some saying they are pulling back from the US-inspired discount day.

This week Asda said it would not be part of Black Friday this year, citing ‘shopper fatigue’.

Intu, which has 18 shopping centres across the UK, including Intu Trafford Centre and Intu Lakeside, says it is extending opening hours on Black Friday in anticipation of a significant uplift in footfall.

Gordon McKinnon, operations director, said: “Despite some retailers coming out early with their Black Friday plans, the majority are still playing their cards close to their chests. However, from what we are hearing from our retailers and shoppers, Black Friday is definitely here to stay – that genie cannot be put back in the bottle.

“Last year we saw a 30 per cent increase in visitor numbers on Black Friday compared to a normal Friday and are expecting similar numbers this year. In preparation we are extending opening hours and bringing in extra staff.”

## Expanding care firm take on 50

A CARE company based in Dudley has announced it is to take on 50 extra members of staff.

Home Instead, which offers care in homes across Stourbridge, Hagley and Halesowen, wants to expand its reach across the Black Country by taking on new carers to deal with demand for the company’s services.

Company director Peter Bath said: “We have a growing need and we are looking to employ another 50 caregivers over the next year.”

He added: “We have worked very hard since opening the business.”

Anyone interested in joining the company or finding out more about the vacancies on offer should call 01562 885589 or visit homeinstead.co.uk website.

## Historical society is hosting talk on BSA

THERE will be an illustrated talk on motorcycle manufacturer BSA by Keith Ferris at Stourbridge Historical Society’s meeting. It will be held in the Wollaston Room at Stourbridge Town Hall tonight (Thu) at 7.30pm. Admission for non members is £3.

**ABLE & BROMLEY**  
**CARPETS/BEDS**  
WHOLESALE & RETAIL WAREHOUSE

**UPTO 75% OFF** Sofa's, Vinyls and Laminates

Disabled. Can't Get Out. OAP Or anyone needing that extra help? Can't come to us - We'll come to you We will bring 100's of carpet samples, sofa and bed brochures to your door

WE DO WHAT OTHER CARPET FIRMS WON'T Remove and take away old carpets/beds Move heavy furniture and shave doors

**PLUS FREE FITTING ON SELECTED RANGES**  
Terms and conditions apply.

Unit D Dormston Trading Estate, Burton Road, Upper Gornal

[www.ablecarpets.co.uk](http://www.ablecarpets.co.uk)

**FREEPHONE 0800 0853747**

Quarry Bank • Stourbridge • Lye • Pedmore • Wollescote • Brierley Hill • Kinver • Wordsley

Adrian Bromley  
**01902 880541**

**Concept BLINDS**

**UP TO 50% OFF ALL BLINDS**

Vertical & Roller Blinds  
New season fabrics now available

Child Safety Features Fitted Free of Charge

**5 YEAR GUARANTEE**

Also available

- Romans • Pleated
- Conservatory Roof Blinds
- Wood Venetians
- Venetian Blinds
- Curved Tracks for Bay Windows

**FREEPHONE 0800 5875279**  
Open Seven Days a Week  
**0121 429 3169**

**FREE Home Quote. FAST Delivery**

**HOMECLAD**

- FASCIAS
- GUTTERING
- SOFFITS
- CLADDING
- TILE EDGING

**BEST VALUE IN THE MIDLANDS**  
PREMIUM PRODUCTS EXPERTLY FITTED BY A LOCAL FAMILY COMPANY

**SPECIAL OFFER**  
FREE guttering and downpipes

**0800 73 13 946**  
CALL FOR A NO OBLIGATION QUOTE  
8 ABBOTSFORD DRIVE DUDLEY DY1 2HD

**Broken Dentures?**

\*\*\*\*\*  
1 hour denture repair service  
\*\*\*\*\*

**New Dentures**  
available & made at...

**The Dental Shop**  
Est. 1981

**01384 413444**

201-203 Halesowen Road, Old Hill, W. Mids. B64 6HE  
[www.the-dental-shop.co.uk](http://www.the-dental-shop.co.uk)

**FOOTWORKS**  
**Chiropody Clinic**

- Full range of services with disabled friendly access
- Nail Cutting and Trimming
- Diabetic Footcare
- Corns and Calluses

**01384 413444**

201-203 Halesowen Road, Old Hill B64 6HE  
[www.footworkschiroprpodists.co.uk](http://www.footworkschiroprpodists.co.uk)



## Warning as bus routes hit by work on Paradise

BUS services in Dudley will be affected by major changes in Birmingham due to the next phase of the £500 million Paradise Circus redevelopment.

The changes came into effect on Sunday and officials said they would particularly impact on services from the western side to the city using Broad Street and Colmore Row.

Routes and stops for 11 National Express West Midlands Services using Hagley Road and those travelling to Harborne from Colmore Row will be affected.

Services along Hagley Road affected will be the number nine Birmingham to Stourbridge, the 127 Birmingham to Dudley, the 128 Birmingham to Oldbury, the 129 Birmingham to Merry Hill, the 140 Birmingham to Dudley and the 141 Birmingham to Merry Hill.

Routes would be unchanged going towards the city centre but on exit will go via Colmore Row, Newhall Street, Graham Street, Newhall Hill, Sand Pits Parade, Clement Street, St Vincent Street and Sheepcote Street to rejoin Broad Street.

Timetables will be changed to accommodate the extra time needed to undertake the diversion but service frequency will remain unchanged.

The works will also affect the iGo Hagley Road services including the number 10 Birmingham to Quinton and 10H also Birmingham to Quinton when it comes to exit the city centre.

For further details on changes to routes go to the [www.networkwestmidlands.com](http://www.networkwestmidlands.com) website.

## Car ban plan for short-cut route

A SCHEME banning drivers using a section of road in Halesowen will cost £4,000 to implement.

The move is set to be introduced following a public consultation over borough roads in September.

Currently residents living on an unadopted section of Forecraft Street are financially responsible for the maintenance of the road. They raised concerns about the road surface due to vehicles using the street as a short-cut.

Dudley Council is set to rubber-stamp the plans to close off a section of the street. A report stated that bringing the road up to an adoptable standard was beyond the resources of the residents and a prohibition order on driving was 'a fair compromise'.

## Choral society tribute concert

DUDLEY Choral Society will hold a celebratory 70th anniversary concert at St Marks Church in Pennsett on December 12, also a tribute to its late musical director John Taylor. See [www.dudleychoralsociety.co.uk](http://www.dudleychoralsociety.co.uk)

# Cause of fatal crash remains a mystery



Stewart Hollyoake died in road accident

**THE cause of a motorbike crash that killed a Dudley father-of-one in Shropshire will probably never be known, an inquest heard.**

Stewart Samuel Hollyoake died after colliding with a tree while travelling on the B4368 in Ship-ton, near Much Wenlock.

His inquest heard that no other vehicle was involved and Mr Hollyoake was confirmed dead at the scene.

As there were no witnesses to the

crash, it will be very difficult to fully establish what happened, the hearing was told.

Mr Hollyoake's wife Dawn has paid a loving tribute to a "fantastic husband, father and son".

Mr John Ellery, senior coroner for Shropshire, concluded that Mr Hollyoake, 52, of Weavers Rise, Netherton, died from multiple injuries from the crash on July 30.

Constable Ian Edwards, from West Mercia Police's collision investigation unit based in Shrewsbury, told the hearing that only one vehicle, Mr

Hollyoake's motorcycle, had been involved in the collision.

The officer, who attended the scene of the crash and conducted an examination, said it would never be known precisely what caused the crash because there were no witnesses.

Mr Ellery told Mr Hollyoake's family members that his death would have been instantaneous and he would not have suffered. Giving a conclusion that Mr Hollyoake died from multiple injuries due to a road traffic collision, Mr Ellery said: "My condolences go to the family."

# Parking bans proposed on roads across borough

**RESIDENTS' views on plans to ban drivers from parking along nearly 20 roads across Dudley borough are now being considered ahead of a final decision.**

Dudley Council has drawn up proposals for double yellow lines to be introduced on 18 routes across Dudley, Stourbridge, Halesowen, Brierley Hill and Netherton.

A public consultation took place during September and feedback from residents is now being analysed. Decisions will then be made on what schemes to push ahead with while others may be dropped.

The council also looked at making some roads one-way or imposing waiting restrictions to improve traffic flow and to stop some drivers leaving their cars in residential streets for long periods to avoid paying parking charges. Council chiefs said measures were being considered following calls by residents and councillors.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "The public consultation was undertaken as a result of requests from members of the public and ward members. This has now ended and the responses received are being evaluated."

"Those roads which have received no objections will progress to a decision sheet with the aim to be implemented in the next few months. Any proposals which received negative responses will be considered further to determine the best way forward."

### Prohibition

If approved, prohibition of waiting orders will be introduced along Vicarage Road, Ridge Street, Bridle Road, The Dell, King Street, High Street and Sherwood Road, all Wollaston.

In Dudley, measures will be put in place along King Street, Tipton Road and Discovery Way, along with Church Road and Hill Street in Netherton.

They would also be introduced in Halesowen, namely Fairmile Road and Hagley Road, and in Braithwaite Drive, Kingswinford.

In Amblecote, they would be placed in Oakfield Close and Brette Lane, and in Brierley Hill at The Promenade, close to the Merry Hill shopping centre.

Other traffic orders are at Firmstone Street, Halesowen; Vale Street, Upper Gornal, to be made one-way northbound; and Hill Street one-way southbound; plus a 7.5 tonne restriction along Racecourse Lane, Stourbridge.

## Raise a glass to Tommy at venue



Val Mundos and daughter Caroline Hickman with the portrait showing Tommy Mundos in action

FANS of Black Country comedian Tommy Mundos can raise a glass to the much-missed funnyman after the bar at Dudley Town Hall was re-named in his honour.

A painting of the comedian will take pride of place in the bar, which is now named the Tommy Mundos Lounge.

The family of the Halesowen entertainer said he would have been 'absolutely delighted' at the tribute.

The bar was officially re-named during a ceremony attended by Tommy's family and friends.

### Plaque

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho unveiled a painting of Tommy created by artist Keith Turley in 2009, which was one of the comedian's favourites.

It will hang in the lounge along with a plaque. Signs with the new

name have been installed outside the bar entrances.

Tommy died in July 2014, at the age of 80, following a battle with Parkinson's Disease.

His widow Val and daughter Caroline attended the re-naming ceremony.

Val said: "Tommy was never a big drinker, although he did like a whisky. However, I know he would have been absolutely delighted with this"

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### College launches own beauty salon

HALESOWEN College has launched a new salon offering a range of hair and beauty treatments.

Amethyst is open every Friday and Saturday from 9am to 4pm and has five beauty treatment areas and two nail stations, including a Wella branded hair salon.

It allows beauty students to learn on the job. The salon is based at the college's Shenstone House campus at the foot of Mucklow Hill.

Kelly Chamberlain, salon manager, said: "We are very excited and proud to launch our professional salon."

### Public invited to health meeting

THE public are invited to the next meeting of Dudley's Clinical Commissioning Group to discuss changes to health and social care needs.

The public healthcare forum meeting takes place from 12.30pm until 2.30pm on December 3 at Brierley Hill Civic Hall in Bank Street. Dr Steve Mann, clinical executive and a local GP, said: "In January, we will be starting a listening exercise across Dudley and we want to make sure people understand the reasons for this."

To book a place call Keren Hodgson on (01384) 321730.

### Toy collectors have two dates

A TOY and collectors fair will be held on two dates in Dudley, where comics, movie memorabilia and retro gaming are among items on offer.

The first date is on Sunday November 29 at The Station Hotel and the second at the Castle Hill venue will be on Sunday, January 24.

Prices are £1 for adults and free for children under 16. Early bird entrance is £5 from 9.30 to 10.30am, with general admission from 10.30am. Call 01902 276222.

### Anniversary brew at festive ales celebration

A BREWERY which celebrated its 100th anniversary this year has brewed a special beer for the Dudley Winter Ales Fair later this month.

The festival logo, which will feature on commemorative beer glasses, also marks Woodseton-based Holden's anniversary. The fair will be at Dudley Town Hall over the weekend of November 26 and 28. Among more than 70 beers will be Holden's Old Masters, a 10 per cent strength ale revived for the centenary celebrations.

### Mince pie included

CRADLEY Heath Liberal Club will be holding a late night Christmas shopping event in aid of charity. The event is on Thursday, November 26, from 6.30pm to 10pm at the Upper High Street club with proceeds to Acorns Children's Hospice. Admission at £1 includes a hot drink and a mince pie.

## AUTUMN OFFERS

- 3 Windows**  
Was £890 **Now £680**
- 4 Windows**  
Was £1170 **Now £890**
- 5 Windows**  
Was £1290 **Now £1100**
- 6 Windows**  
Was £1500 **Now £1380**

T&Cs apply

## NOVEMBER INSTALLATIONS, MASSIVE DISCOUNTS

**UP TO 50% OFF**

- Windows • Composite windows & doors
- Conservatories • Orangeries • Porches
- Extensions, Carports & Canopies • Bi-fold & uPVC doors
- Timber Doors and Windows • Repair service • Rehau 72mm profile

Bespoke requirements are no problem



**70mm A Rated frames and glass, free Argon gas**



Also Available - Guardian Tiled Roof System (LABC approved)

**FENSA**  
Registered Company

West Midlands DOUBLE GLAZING

Unit 19 Middlemore Industrial Estate, Middlemore Road, B21 0AY 0800 080 7076 0121 532 0784

[www.westmidlandsglazing.com](http://www.westmidlandsglazing.com) • Friendly, personal touch and jobs completed to high standards



**10 YEAR Guarantee**



## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



A NUMBER have emailed to say, half-way through November, you're already sick of Christmas adverts. That's because you are sweet, sentimental old things who cling to the belief that Christmas is a sacred event towards the end of December. It is actually a three-month festival, encompassing Diwali, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Putting the Clocks Back. It ends on December 25 and is followed by Boxing Day, when we all start wearing our poppies again, and New Year's Eve when we make ourselves sick with Easter eggs.

TRUST the historian, not the politicians. On the issue of migration, Sir Max Hastings stood head and shoulders above the rest of the panel on Radio 4's Any Questions. He described "a vast swathe of humanity from Africa and the Middle East who see what we have in our society and they do not have" and are making their way to Europe. He made the point that the biggest movement of people since the Second World War will continue for decades, affecting generations to come. He warned that, while it is wrong automatically to assume it will be a disaster, "Britain and Europe are going to become radically different places." He is surely right. Politicians talk about settling a few thousand here or there, as though they have real answers, but there are tens of millions who want a better life in Europe. We are a humane nation and there is no humane way of stopping them. We are seeing the beginning of the end of the old Europe and the Britain we knew. All we can hope is the folk dwelling here 100 years from now will live happily and look after the place.



SO Farewell, Downton Abbey, with its sugary depiction of warm-hearted aristos and loyal, forelock-tugging staff. Everybody knew their place and all the servants got lots of time off for teaching, sitting exams or running a B&B. Maybe in some stately homes life was as jolly and easy as that. All I can contribute is that when I was born both my parents were in service at a grand house in Lancashire and if it was such a lovely experience, how come I was in my 40s before they told me about it?

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Combined authority deal now signed off

**CHANCELLOR George Osborne signed off on a landmark devolution deal on Tuesday that will see a West Midlands Combined Authority set up, bringing an elected mayor and £1 billion of Government investment to the region.**

Mr Osborne joined members of the West Midlands Combined Authority shadow board to put pen to paper on what he called 'an historic deal'.

**By Peter Madeley**

It will see the region become the first outside of the north of England to sign up to a devolution deal with an elected Mayor.

Mr Osborne said: "We want to make the Midlands Britain's engine for growth and this deal will give the region the powerful levers it needs to make that happen."

"We have worked with local council leaders across the party divide, and today we are announcing a collaborative way of working that would not have been countenanced in this region even just a few years ago."

Final proposals on how the combined authority will work and what it aims to achieve will go before Parliament in April 2016.

Solihull's Councillor Bob Sleigh, chairman of the West Midlands Combined Authority, described the move as a 'historic moment' for the region.

"We are committed to building on our strengths, including our exports and

our inward investment, and to working towards increasing the £80 billion that the region currently contributes to the UK economy."

Stewart Towe, chairman of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership said: "The level of partnership between public and private sector, which is unique to the West Midlands proposed devolution deal, is focused on investing in the region, creating new jobs, improving skills, delivering more homes and dramatically improving transport."

Announcing its involvement, Sandwell Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper was quick to point out that 'Sandwell Council will remain Sandwell Council'. He added that there would be no 'Birmingham dominance'. The influence of the nation's second city had been a major sticking point with some concern that the Black Country would become part of 'Greater Birmingham'.

## Bags of fun with this display



John Sparry with some of his 300 plastic carrier bags

MORE than 300 plastic bags charting the rise and fall of supermarkets over the past 15 years feature on the wall for an avid collector in Dudley.

Musician, writer, broadcaster and historian John Sparry, from Wall Heath, has covered the walls of his second-hand book shop with them.

Mr Sparry, who has lived most of his life in the house which was bought by his grandparents for £106 in 1910, has a second-hand shop which occupies the front room.

He started collecting bags when customers left them with books. He said: "More often than not the bag was more interesting than the books! The different colours, shapes and sizes fascinated me, so I actually started collecting the bags. I began to search around myself and found some wonderful types of bags."

"Some of the brands I have on the bags are no longer in business, so there's a bit of originality to it. I did put the idea forward to one or two galleries as I thought it could make an effective display, but in the end I just decided to show the selection in my own shop."

## Care for children is given top rating

HOSPITAL care for children and families in Sandwell is a first-class example for others across the country to follow, according to a new report.

Inspectors from the Care Quality Commission rated Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust's care for children, young people and families as outstanding.

The service provides care across Sandwell, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Smethwick, Oldbury, Rowley Regis and Tipton.

Group director for women and child health, Amanda Geary, said she was delighted with the health watchdog's findings and insisted the trust will not rest on its laurels but keep striving to get better.

### Quality

A CQC inspection of the whole trust last year found it required improvement.

"This illustrates what I know our staff do every single day," Mrs Geary said. "Not only that but it also demonstrates to our families that the care they receive from us is of a really high quality."

"We can't be complacent - this is an assessment at a point in time and reflects what we've been doing and are currently doing. The challenge now is to maintain it and take that good practice across other specialities we have in the organisation. We want every service to be up to a high level."

# Hawthorn Windows



A family run business with majority of work coming from recommendations

Why pay more? Deal direct with the owners, no salesmen, and see the difference  
**Doors from £450**  
**Composite Doors from £630**  
**Conservatories from £4500**  
Ring for more details

Specialists in Door, Window, Porch and Conservatory Installations  
Composite Doors from £630  
Wide choice of colours available  
Misty units replaced

**WE OFFER GREAT DEALS ON ALL UPVC PRODUCTS**

Quality products at quality prices  
10 year guarantee

Faulty door locks and window hinges replaced

**We will beat any quote**

FENSA registered

**Unit 1, Shenstone Trading Estate, Bromsgrove Road, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 3XB**

**Tel: 0121 559 6320**



## FURNITURE IS WHAT WE DO

Re-Upholstery  
Specialists

**10% discount for O.A.P's**

- Occasional Furniture & Made to Measure
- Three Piece Suites
- Large Showroom Now Open to Public
- Open 7 Days A Week
- Rugs
- Sofa's
- Dining Room
- Occasional Tables
- Display Cabinets
- Made to Measure Pine Specialist

**10% off all showroom models**



**FREE immediate delivery 7 days a week**

## Chapel Furnishings

Ideal Christmas gifts in stock

Unit 4, Eagle Trading Estate, Stourbridge Road, Halesowen, B63 3UA

**07769 626832**

Also in Blackheath Market



# 'Obsessive' ex waged campaign of harassment on two women

AN 'obsessive' 21-year-old from Cradley who waged relentless campaigns of harassment against two former girlfriends has been jailed for 21 months.

Brad Cox repeatedly ignored restraining orders banning him from having contact with either woman, both of whom had a child by him.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that he even recruited a 'mob' armed with a baseball bat to intimidate one of the victim, said Mr Peter Cooke, prosecuting. The group led by Cox arrived at her home while she was out and hurled a brick through the baby's bedroom window before fleeing after being spotted by a neighbour.

## MP calling for lower prices at the pumps

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has called on Chancellor George Osborne to cut petrol prices as part of his Autumn Statement.

Mr Austin is backing campaign group FairFuelUK, which is calling for a 3p cut in fuel duty to help families.

The Labour MP said he had written to the Chancellor on the issue saying that motorists were currently being made to pay too much.

He said: "Like most people in Dudley I have noticed the steep increase in cost when filling up my car. Going to the pump has become very expensive for millions of families across the country. The Government should help hard working families and boost the economy at the same time by cutting fuel duty in the Autumn Statement."

Last year Mr Austin was thanked by TV motoring expert Quentin Wilson, of FairFuelUK, for his support in pressing the Government to freeze fuel duty.

## Amira helps rickshaw raise £3.7m



Amira Davidson with Matt Baker during The One Show's Rickshaw Challenge which has raised a record amount

A TEENAGER from Kingswinford helped secure a record-breaking total for The One Show's Rickshaw Challenge for BBC Children in Need.

£3,745,411 has now been raised from this year's fundraiser, bringing the total raised by the challenge to over £11.6 million over the last five years with donations for this year's challenge still coming in.

Seventeen-year-old Amira Davidson was one of six young riders to undertake the 477-mile journey from Land's End to the East End of London along

with The One Show's Matt Baker. She got involved with the challenge following her experience with The Children's Trust, a project funded by BBC Children in Need.

In 2013 Amira's sister, Elle, a student at Wolverhampton Girls' High School, suffered a brain haemorrhage. She spent months in hospital and now requires round-the-clock care.

The family struggled to find a place that could address her complex needs and wanted to play an active role in her rehabilitation. It was Amira who

discovered The Children's Trust online. The charity offers specialist care for children and teens suffering from brain injury.

With help from the charity, Amira has been able to come to terms with her sister's condition and has learned ways to help care for her.

Amira said: "I'm unbelievably happy with the results of our challenge. I don't think any of us could ever have imagined a total so high, and I just want to say a huge thank you to everyone who got behind us."

## Big fines for pet owners over dog mess

THREE people have been prosecuted at court for not cleaning up after their pets under Sandwell Council's crack-down on dog mess.

Wardens have now issued nearly 140 dog dirt fines since the council launched a hard-hitting poster campaign last year.

Gillian Jones, 31, of Parkes Street, Smethwick, faces a £592 bill after failing to clean up after her dog at Harry Mitchell Park on August 1.

She did not attend a hearing before Sandwell Magistrates, who ordered her to pay a £220 fine, £200 costs, a £150 criminal court charge and £22 victim surcharge.

Alan Westwood, 67, of Bell End, Rowley Regis, was hit with the same £592 bill after failing to clean up after his dog at Britannia Park on August 5.

Westwood also failed to attend the hearing. Magistrates ordered him to pay a £220 fine, £200 costs, a £150 criminal court charge and £22 victim surcharge.

Paul Lyn-Kew, 48, of Ruskin Avenue, Rowley Regis, attended court and admitted not cleaning up after his dog at Britannia Park on April 26.

Magistrates imposed a conditional discharge for 12 months and ordered him to pay £200 costs and a £150 criminal court charge and a £15 victim surcharge.

## Medieval banquets to be held at castle site

DUDLEY Zoo is serving up a feast fit for a king this Christmas with an added extra of a reindeer encounter.

The Oak Kitchen at the Queen Mary Restaurant at the Castle Hill attraction is hosting four medieval banquets on December 10, 11, 17 and 18 at 7pm. The meal is £34.95 per head and to book or for more information call (01384) 215 319.

MASSIVE DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE ON DECEMBER INSTALLATIONS

# RYDALE

**Windows & Doors,  
Conservatories,  
Orangeries, Porches,  
Fascias & Soffit Boards**



No deposits or stage payments, you only pay when the installation has been completed

Visit one of the largest conservatory and window showrooms in the UK

Supplied & Fitted... across the Midlands

Repair Service Available

VERY

# BIG Autumn SALE

RIGHT NOW



Guardian  
Warm Roof



Replace the existing roof on your conservatory and create a comfortable environment and a room you can use all year round

Every window and conservatory is custom made to the most rigorous quality standards you will find in the industry.

No other company in the area has more experience and know how than Rydale, and that's why we have been in business for more than 30 years.



Make the **RIGHT** decision this Autumn and give **Rydale** a ring...

**FREEPHONE 0800 917 6060**  
**www.rydalewindows.co.uk**

**Long Lane, Blackheath, Halesowen B62 9LS**

**Open Weekdays: 9am to 5.30pm**  
**Saturday: 9am to 4pm**  
**Sunday Closed**



## IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# The mind boggles over return of Porridge

NEARLY 40 years since the original series ended, the BBC is set to bring back classic sitcom Porridge.

But it won't be reviving the austere surroundings of HM Prison Slade, which was reputedly named after the Black Country glam rock band.

Writers Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais say the new series will be right up to date, and set in a modern prison.

The mind boggles.

This presumably means Godber will be whiling his time away on a PlayStation, while Fletcher is suing the governor under the Human Rights Act because his pillow was not plump enough.

McLaren will be serving up gourmet fiddle in the canteen, and Grouty will be getting jiggy with the Amazonian female warden who smuggles his drug supplies in. And Fletcher will probably rue the day he moaned about the judge when he finds his new cellmate is Rolf Harris.

NOT that the younger generation will be watching any of this, of course. Apparently, teenagers don't watch television any more, they get their entertainment on YouTube.

Actually, you can get proper TV programmes on YouTube. You can watch an entire episode of The Likely Lads or Mind Your Language if you have got the patience to watch all the different clips in the correct order.

But it seems teenagers prefer to spend their time watching other teenagers, unlikely stars who record weekly broadcasts from their own bedrooms, which are then transmitted to millions of registered followers.

For instance, there was a teenager called Rebecca Black whose wealthy parents paid for her to have her own pop video. The final work, an infuriatingly catchy ditty about her journey to school, was so excruciatingly bad that it catapulted her to worldwide stardom, and a reported 1.2 million youngsters now subscribe to her videos.

Another is Kimberly "Sweet Brown" Wilkins who became a minor celebrity in the US after ranting on a TV news bulletin about how a house fire had affected her bronchitis. Youths spend hours glued to their tablets, waiting for her to shout "Ain't nobody got time for that?"

Then there is Alfie Deyes, who reportedly has 4.1 million subscribers to his Pointless Blog which, to be fair, does exactly what it says on the tin. His young fans hang on his every word while he covers subjects such as why he loves his cactus, and how the speakers on his hi-fi system are 'sick'.

The sad thing is, mindless though this drive is, you can't really blame the youngsters for watching it. Because even Alfie's plants are more interesting than X Factor.



The grave of Sergeant Major Walter Chiverton at St John's



The ornate grave of Sergeant Major Thomas Harrison



The grave of 19-year-old Leonard Dorsett

# Military graves are discovered at church

Saving a Dudley church has uncovered stories of bravery, loyalty and tragedy, report by  
**RICHARD GUTTRIDGE**

**HIDDEN away in an overgrown graveyard in the shadow of a decaying church being readied for demolition – it was no resting place for a band of war heroes.**

But amid the brambles and weeds in the grounds of the Dudley church lay a military graveyard, which somehow over the years had been forgotten.

Dozens of men who went off to fight for their country during the First and Second World Wars, and other conflicts, were buried there.

It was to the amazement of those trying to resurrect the abandoned St John's Church in Kates Hill that at least 39 military heroes were resting peacefully in their churchyard.

Many of their stories had never been told – including the longest-serving member of the British Army and a soldier who saved the life of a member of the Royal Family.

On the face of it, the story of St John's Church is a depressing one. It has now been closed for more than for over a decade.

The building was in a steady state of decline and when it was earmarked for demolition it appeared the stories of the soldiers could be lost forever. But all that changed when a handful of campaigners came to the rescue.

## Preservation

Deb Brownlee, who founded the St John's Preservation Group, said: "I was running a charity shop 100 yards away and people used to talk about why the church was going to be pulled down. I didn't set out to start a preservation group to try and save the church but when it eventually became pretty obvious it was going to come down, I was asked to do something about it."

At that stage, not even they knew about the military cemetery but that would soon change.

The group was contacted by a historian,



Deb Brownlee, of St John's Church Preservation Group next to the grave of William Cheese

keen to find out more about a former vicar who served at St John's during the 19th century. He had a particular interest in the church and had previously written a book chronicling the men whose graves were in the churchyard.

Ms Brownlee said: "We knew nothing at all, not the slightest thing. It was just awe inspiring. The stories just keep coming through. I just think thank God we are doing this – it would have all been lost. Sometimes, there is a grave that you wouldn't give a second look but has an amazing story. It makes you look at the graveyard through different eyes."

"Most people were astonished. The churchyard is quite far back from the road and you wouldn't know there was two-and-a-half acres."

The group were originally charged with saving the church but were determined to give the brave men the resting place they deserve.

The current count of military dead is 39, many were killed in action. All of the men are thought to be from the local area.

Some are easy to distinguish, with brief details of a rank and where they were killed accompanying the name and dates of birth and death. Others feature just a name.

Many had become worn and weathered over the years, and inscriptions are difficult to decipher. Many of the graves were simply forgotten about.

The book was hugely helpful, providing detail and background about many of the fallen, but more research was needed to complete the group. They scoured records and archives and put out public appeals for relatives to come forward.

Ms Brownlee said: "Many who were killed didn't have any children. So we have to try and find nieces and great nieces. It often has to be

the children of the siblings who are wanting to remember them."

One such attempt to reach out saw the niece of one soldier come forward who played an important role in shaping British history.

George Thomason is credited with saving the life of a man who would go on to be part of the Royal Family. It is thought that during the First World War he sprang to the aid of Viscount Henry Lascelles, who would go on to marry Princess Mary, the only daughter of George V, was walking along the top of a trench when the enemy began opening fire. Quick-thinking Thomason, whose duties included protecting the revered Viscount, dashed up to pull him down, in all likelihood saving his life. Viscount Lascelles did take a bullet to the backside but was spared major damage.

Thomason, who served with the Grenadier Guards, was awarded the Military Medal for an unrelated act of bravery. Unlike many of his comrades with whom he shares the graveyard, he survived the war and lived to the age of 68, passing away in 1963.

Sergeant Major Walter Chiverton is believed to be the longest-serving member of the British Army in history. He died as the Second World War was coming to an end in 1945 but not on the battlefield, making it to the grand old age of 92.

In January 1905, on his 50th birthday, Walter was placed on reserve. He was re-instated as recruiting officer in 1914 following the outbreak of war. Afterwards he was transferred to Wolverhampton, once again as recruiting officer, and continued as a volunteer recruiting officer until 1944, meaning he served the army for a total of 77 years.

It was discovered that he lived a stone's throw from the churchyard in Caroline Street, which runs parallel with the graveyard. His grave sits just over the wall from his old home.

In contrast, Leonard Dorsett was just 19 when he was killed during the Great War on October 24, 1918 – his death cruelly coming just a fortnight before the end of the conflict.

Ms Brownlee added said: "In 200 years time, I still want the church to be able to say these are the graves, this happened. We must never forget."

## AUTUMN SALE

Show site open  
7 days a week

- Old Buildings Removed
- Asbestos Disposal
- Base Laying Service
- Free Quotations

CONCRETE GARAGE ROOF  
REPLACEMENT SERVICE

### Wooden Sheds

FULL TONGUE & GROOVE



Fitted prices from

6ft x 4ft £239  
7ft x 5ft £269  
8ft x 6ft £299

### Concrete Garages



Fitted prices from

Single Garage  
16ft x 8ft £1499  
Double Garage  
16ft x 16ft £2999

### Summer Houses



Fitted prices from

7ft x 5ft £575  
8ft x 6ft £685  
8ft x 8ft £745

### Log Cabins & Garden Rooms



Fitting service available

Wall Log 44mm T&G  
Double Glazed  
Insulated Options

Huge Range Made To Measure Service Lined & Insulated Options Quality At Competitive Prices

Show site (open 7 days): Tildasley Street,  
West Bromwich B70 9SJ (Next to Staples)

Visit our website:  
www.bettabuildings.co.uk

Call us now:  
0121 553 4682

We make it **BETTA**  
BUILDINGS



# I know Mario Lanza man's secret — after meeting him at the library

I was interested reading in The Chronicle that the mysterious 'Mario Lanza man' is still around. I know him. We shared the lift in Stourbridge Library at our first meeting. He told me he'd attended Hill Street School (as I had done) but didn't like it because the boys were caned!

He is a couple of years older than me (I am 82). I told him I'd never give him away because it would spoil the mystery. He told me he would take his secret 'to the grave'. Over the years I have obtained 14 of his Mario Lanza cards, which are mainly beer mats with his writing on the back.

My favourite one states that Mario Lanza knew the 'F' word in 20 different languages! Our most bizarre meeting took place in a reading room in Stourbridge Library. The 'Mario Lanza man' decided to show me the

exercise he does, every night before he goes to bed. It consisted of standing upright with your head back as far as it would go, while counting up to 60 seconds. He said it always felt lovely afterwards.

We were both doing it there and then, and we must have looked very peculiar, as if we were examining some fault on the library ceiling.

The 'Mario Lanza man' was also the same person who painted 'Black Catt' on various buildings around Stourbridge. They were life-sized and done well but the council cleaned them off, I was told, which I thought was a shame.

Anyway, long may the 'Mario Lanza man' reign!

**J EDEN**  
Stourbridge

## Here's more health tips

WE were told butter was bad for us, margarine was healthy. Lard bad for us, vegetable oil good. Drinking wine was good in moderation, now not too sure.

Take a walk in the fresh air as long as it is out of the way of diesel cars and lorries, but we were told diesel vehicles were much cleaner than petrol.

Everything has been turned on its head, what was good for us is now bad, well you know the rest. I have found the answer that will allow us to live forever — stop drinking, stop eating, stop breathing. Eureka, it has to be right.

**N D CADDICK**  
Cosely

## Museum and gallery accessible

COUNCILLOR Sparks has stated that he supports the closure of Dudley Museum and Art Gallery because it is 'unsuitable for people with wheelchairs'. Does the councillor genuinely believe this? If he is genuine, you would think he would check the facts.

The simple truth is the museum is very well adapted for wheelchair access. The main entrance has very noticeable ramp access and there is an electric wheelchair lift to access the lower ground floor, as well as further ramps making all exhibits on that level accessible. There is a lift to provide access to further exhibits and display rooms on the upper floor.

He no longer has a good reason to support closure. So Councillor Sparks, do the decent thing.

**A A CROMPTON**  
Dudley

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

### EMAIL

dudley.chron@  
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## Flabbergasted by demand on clubs

I WAS flabbergasted after reading that Dudley Council were thinking of increasing bowling green club fees from £780 to £12,000 pounds.

What planet are the people who are running Dudley council on to think of increasing fees to such staggering amount? I wonder if such a proposed amount is legal?

I would assume that most members who play bowls are retired people and this gives them pleasure in their retirement.

I don't know what mem-

bership totals are for these clubs but I am sure that they would not be able to afford increases on this scale.

Apparently officers are going around to clubs asking them to mow the greens themselves and telling them how subsidised they are.

Who pays for the mowing of all of the other greens ie parks, roadside verges, etc, etc, — the council taxpayers of course, so aren't the bowling green members council taxpayers? May 2016 comes to mind.

**B WHITEHOUSE**  
Kingswinford

## A trek for the children's tea

IT'S about time we had our McDonald's. The land has been passed by the council and still it's not built.

I have to catch two buses to get to Merry Hill with a pushchair and three children and twin babies to get the kids their tea when they come from school.

It's not on, we want our McDonald's open in Stourbridge.

**C DAWNING**  
Stourbridge

## No culture

DO Dudley Council think that the people of Dudley are unworthy of culture? Our medieval market town is fast losing its identity. We have no theatre and are to lose our art gallery and museum.

**A DOWNING**  
Dudley

# Hasbury Windows Ltd

## AUTUMN OFFER

it has to be **HASBURY** Probably the best windows in town!

**Inliten Front Door in White** From **£490** incl. fitting

**FRONT DOOR STANDARD SPEC:**

- Inliten 70mm single doors only
- Lever/lever handle and hook lock
- Fitted with white furniture
- Left hand or right hand opening
- Panel Thickness: 28mm
- Choice of 6 white panel doors

**PANEL DOOR-HARDWARE FEATURES:**

- PAS 24 security testing on flag hinges
- 3 hinges have carrying capacity of 120kg
- Longer lasting performance on hardware
- Locking system - exclusive to Camden & one of the most superior on the market

**TRADE ENQUIRES WELCOME**

**Sealed Units Replacement Available From £10**

**'We will beat any genuine written quote'**

**All work carries a full 10 Year insurance backed Guarantee**

**Excellent service from start to finish. Reliable and friendly.**

**MR G UPTON**  
HALESOWEN

**It's the best time of year to fit new windows!**

**9 HALESOWEN ROAD, HALESOWEN, WEST MIDLANDS B62 9AA**

**FENSA**  
Registered 30170

**0121 421 7001 / 0121 421 2104 / 01384 78796**

**Inliten Back Door in White** From **£450** incl. fitting

**BACK DOOR STANDARD SPEC:**

- Inliten 70mm single doors only
- Lever/lever handle and hook lock
- Supplied with Monaco half panel (top pane glazed)
- Panel Thickness: 28mm
- Left hand or right hand opening
- White furniture/hardware

**6 Flat Windows & 2 Doors** From **£2999** Includes Fitting & VAT

\* Your local well established business offering top quality products and service

\* No payment until completion

\* Call us now for a great deal on your new windows and doors

\* Visit our showroom

\* Deal direct with the owner

\* If you want quality, value and service it 'has to be Hasbury'!

**Lovely job, fitters made no mess! Would definitely recommend again.**

**MR & MRS LEWIS**  
LOWER GORNAL



**40% OFF**  
Doors and Drawers  
Before 30th November

**10% OFF**  
All New Kitchens, Bedrooms, Bathrooms  
OFFERS CANNOT BE COMBINED



## Quality Kitchen Makeovers Ltd

### UNBEATABLE QUALITY AND VALUE FROM THE BESPOKE SPECIALISTS

**Don't Settle for Less**

- Kitchens • Bedrooms
- Bathrooms • Extensions
- Loft Conversions
- Home Offices

**From a door or worktop replacement to an extension**

**What our customers say...**

*"Wonderful kitchen, I have already recommended you and would not hesitate to recommend QKM to anyone."*

*"Can't believe the transformation from start to finish, totally professional."*

**Appliances: Neff, Bosch, Rangemaster, Belling, Hotpoint, Stoves and many more**

**Franke Sinks 50 Year Guarantee**

**HOMEOWNERS...**

**Looking to Sell?**  
Enhance the prospects of selling your property - stunning results for a minimum outlay

**Just Moved In?**  
Let us help to transform your property into a dream home

**Decided to Stay?**  
Fall in love again with your home - Revamp your kitchen, bedroom or bathroom and allow us to show your home's true potential

**Bring us your dream pictures and we will bring them to life**

**At QKM**  
We are dedicated to offering our customers the finest service within the home improvement market

**THE GUILD OF MASTER CRAFTSMEN**  
Membership No A120074

*'We have customers who would be more than happy to show you the excellent standard of work'*

**The Largest Working Kitchen in the Midlands at our Netherton Showroom**

**All types of Flooring supplied and Wet Wall Solutions for Bathrooms**

**Range of Kitchens, Bedrooms and Bathrooms to suit all budgets**

**Did you know 80% of our customers are retired?**  
60% plus of all our appointments are referrals or existing customers requiring further work.

Find out why we are trusted for yourself

**BOOK YOUR NO OBLIGATION QUOTE TODAY ON 01384 232413**

**Head Office & Showroom**  
149 Cinder Bank, Netherton, Dudley, DY2 9BL

**01384 232413**

Open Mon - Fri 9am - 5.30pm,  
Thursdays 9am - 7pm  
Saturdays 10am - 4pm

**Stourport Showroom**  
33 High Street, Stourport-on-Seven DY13 8BE

**01299 877718**

Open Tue, Wed & Sat 10.00am - 5.30pm  
Thursday 10.00am - 7.00pm  
Stourport closed Monday & Friday

**Customer satisfaction guaranteed.**

**WE WILL NOT LET YOU DOWN**

**ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED**



**www.qkm.org.uk**

**FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL**



**CASH** **Hawthorne & Walker** **CARRY**

**BUY NOW!**

5lb Fresh Rib Eye Steaks.....	£6.99lb
5lb Fresh Sirloin Steaks (120 Day matured)...	£6.99lb
Fresh English Beef Fillets.....	£7.98lb Take 2 £6.98lb
Fresh Aberdeen Black Angus Eye Rounds 5-6lb approx .....	£3.60lb
Fresh Grain Fed Beef Roasts approx 12lb .....	£2.79lb
5 x 1lbs Minced Beef .....	£1.99lb (additive free)
5lb Fresh Rump Steaks .....	£5.79lb
10 Rib Eye Steaks .....	£17.99
11lb Trays Fresh Chicken Fillets ..£23 or 2 for £20 each (additive free)	
Whole Fresh Boneless Pork Loins.....	£1.89lb
Home Cured Middle Bacon .....	£2.78lb
5lb Packs Home Cured short Back Bacon .....	£7.99 per pack
Home Cured Streaky Bacon .....	£2.28lb
Whole Danish Crown Horseshoe Gammons .....	£1.89lb
10 Pork Loin Steaks .....	£7.99
Whole Fresh Belly Porks.....	£1.69lb
Homemade Sausages min. 75% pork Various delicious flavours! .....	5lb = £1.99lb
Whole Fresh Boneless Lamb Legs .....	£3.99 kilo
5lb Middle Loin Lamb Chops .....	£3.49lb
10 Loin Lamb Chops .....	£7.99

**ORDER NOW FOR CHRISTMAS**

**Boneless Turkey Crowns**  
**Wrapped in Streaky Bacon in a**  
**roasting bag with cooking time!**  
**BUY NOW FROM £2.99**

**AVAILABLE FOR PRE ORDER ONLY**

- 5-10lb Fresh Highbury Roaster Chickens Excluding Giblets Oven Ready..... **£2.99lb**
- Fresh Oven Ready Hen Turkeys 11-16lb Excluding Giblets .....
- Fresh Gressingham Bronze Oven Ready Turkeys .....
- Fresh Gressingham Oven Ready Dry Plucked Geese.....
- Fresh Gressingham Oven Ready Ducks.....
- Frozen Oven Ready Pheasants....
- Small Fresh Boneless Hen Turkey Crowns approx 5lb

**CHRISTMAS HAMPER**

**Boneless Fresh Turkey Crown 9-10lb**  
**2lb Scotch Rump Steak**  
**10 Pigs in Blankets**  
**3lb Pork Joint**  
**3lb Black Angus Beef Joint**  
**2lb Gammon Joint**  
**2lb Short Back Bacon**  
**2lb Homemade Pork Sausages (75%)**  
**1lb Sausage Meat (70%)**  
**1lb Pork Pie**

**£99**

**FREE BOTTLE OF WINE OR CAVA WITH EVERY CHRISTMAS HAMPER**

**Call 01384 633648 / 353550**  
**172-6 High Street, Quarry Bank**

# Get ready for the craic with Irish music festival

A HOST of venues in the Midlands will be going green next week just for the craic.

However, this time it's nothing to do with the environment because Birmingham is hosting its first Tradfest which will celebrate Irish traditional music.

The festival will be four days of music running from November 26 to 29 across venues centred around the Irish quarter in Digbeth.

The shenanigans will be taking place at The Irish Centre, The Crossing, Molloy's Ceol Castle, The Old Crown, St Anne's Hall, The Spotted Dog, Cleary's, The Bull's Head and the White Swan.

A host of artists who are booked to play include Mike McGoldrick, Dezi Donnelly, Jim Murray and John Joe Kelly, Mary Bergin, The Damien O'Kane Band, May Monday, the Mairtin O'Connor Trio, Karen Tweed & Adrian Burns, Sean Kane and the McEvoy's. There will also be album launches from The London Lasses with Chris O'Malley, Patsy Moloney and Karen Tweed & Adrian Burns.

## Renowned

Renowned Irish flautist, who comes from Manchester, McGoldrick made his name with, among many projects, Scottish band Capercaillie and plays the tin whistle and uilleann pipes.

He is a regular on the long-running Transatlantic Sessions and has toured extensively as part of McGoldrick, McCusker & Doyle.

This time he will be playing as part of McGoldrick, Donnelly, Murray and Kelly.

Singer/songwriter O'Kane is no stranger to the Midlands, he has played Birmingham and Wolverhampton as part of his wife Kate Rusby's tour. This time he is bringing his own band.

The expert banjo player, who will be running one of the workshops on the instrument, has this month re-



Ulsterman and honorary Yorkshireman Damien O'Kane will be playing the Tradfest

leased Areas of High Traffic, his first solo album for five years. The album is O'Kane putting a modern slant on traditional tunes which are linked to both his own story of leaving Northern Ireland and about immigration in general.

The festival will include many workshops focusing on traditional music skills with many of the artists on the bill passing on their expertise.

There will also be the first Molloy Award handed out.

The award aims to find and reward the best young talent within Irish tra-

ditional music and is named after Anne and Pat Molloy who were great teachers of Irish music in and around Birmingham. The finalists for the award are: Athru, Elan, Meaganta, Obtuse and Out The Gap. It will be presented on November 28 in The Munster Suite of the Irish Centre, doors open 3pm.

Anyone wanting to enjoy the festival can buy weekend tickets, although these are selling very well, or simply get them for an individual day or for a particular concert through the Tradfest website [www.birminghamtradfest.co.uk](http://www.birminghamtradfest.co.uk)

**QUEEN BLINDS**

**Mix & Match Vertical Blinds Or Roller**  
**3 for £100**  
 72" x 72"

**Vertical Blinds**  
**3 for £79**  
 Up to 72" x 72"

**Roller Blinds**  
**3 for £119**  
 60" x 60"

We provide Venetian, Roman, Roller, Vertical, Velux, Pleated  
 Supplied & Fitted within 5 days  
**OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK**  
**8.30AM TILL 7PM**

**FREE MEASURING & FITTING**  
 12 Month Guarantee Terms & Conditions Apply

**Full Conservatory Blinds Fitted £189**  
 Vertical Only

Call: 0121 285 5155  
 Text: 07707 435964 [www.queenblinds.co.uk](http://www.queenblinds.co.uk) **0800 907 8631**

Find us on Facebook  
**FREEPHONE**

# Take the pane away from fitting blinds

## COMMERCIAL FEATURE

**QUEEN Blinds** has established itself as one of the West Midlands' leading blinds manufacturer and supplier.

We have built our reputation with our uncompromising focus on customer service, being one of the only manufacturers to maintain our commitment to delivering all orders within the best possible time.

Please take a look through our website to appreciate just how comprehensive our product range is.

Queen blinds offers a complete design and fit service.

We are not just a blinds retailer, we provide you with a complete blind fitting service.

## Design

This starts with a free, no obligation quotation.

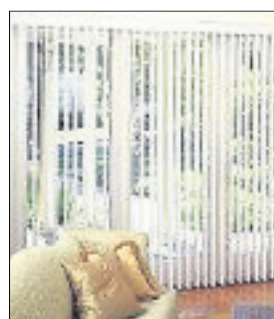
One of our experienced agents will visit you on site and will measure your windows.

He or she will then offer you a helpful advisory discussion regarding the fabric and design of your choice from the samples offered including bespoke blinds.

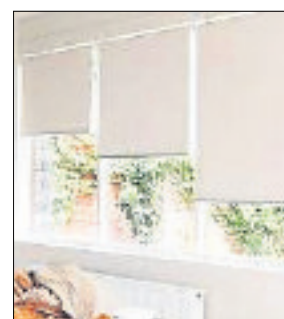
We then manufacture the blinds ourselves and install them safely and securely in your home.

We provide made to measure window blinds that completely combine the function of a vertical blind and the control of the light.

We provide you with a broad choice of transparent, blackout fabrics, aluminium and PVC louvres.



Vertical blinds are among available



Queen roller blinds are a winner



Queen supplies and fits Roman blinds



Maybe Venetian blinds are your style

The fabric louvres are available in 89mm only and are presented in a wide range of colours.

Please visit our Facebook page for our positive feedback and recom-

mendations. Our customers have left excellent reviews because we provide excellent workmanship coupled with outstanding customer service from start to finish.



# Cradley Heathens saved in Monmore track deal

CRADLEY Heathens speedway club has been saved for another season with a return to Wolverhampton being agreed.

Fans suffered weeks of uncertainty after club bosses announced they intended to bow out.

Last season the Heathens were based at Birmingham's Perry Barr track but the club had yet to confirm its home for 2016. The deal announced last week will see the club race at Monmore Green Stadium, where it spent four seasons between 2011 and 2014.

Chairman Nigel Pearson said all thoughts of selling the club were ditched when the possibility of a switch to the city emerged.

He said: "I would like to thank everyone at the club who has helped make this a reality. We had messages from supporters who said if Cradley did not run they simply would not watch speedway. So this has to be good news not only for the club but for speedway in the West Midlands and the whole country."

The Cradley Heathens have been struggling to find a permanent home after losing their track in Dudley Wood two decades ago.

Mr Pearson and club partners Chris Van Straaten and Gary Patchett revived the club in 2010 after 15 years out of league speedway. Under the new arrangement the Heathens will



Speedway action from Cradley Heathens last 'home' meeting of the season

race on alternate weeks to the Wolves, who compete in a different league.

The team will be managed by Mr Patchett and manager Will Pottinger with coach Graham Jones staying on for 2016.

Mr Pearson said the deal would operate on a 'year by year' basis and the search for a permanent home would go on.

He added: "As long as the supporters keep backing Cradley it enables us running the club to continue to talk with Dudley Council to explore potential new sites, but that is not proving

easy. We have thousands of fans we do not want to let down and that is why we have gone the extra mile to keep the club going next year.

"Of course the dream remains to have our own stadium. I would appeal again to anybody or any organisations which know of or have land available to contact the club."

The club has also announced Dr Rod Brooks, a former track doctor at Wolverhampton, joins the Heathens as a partner. Mr Pearson said Dr Brooks was joining on a 'financial' basis having made a contribution.



Nigel Pearson

Sunnyside  
**Kennels**

## A plea at Christmas

Give a homeless dog a Christmas and New Year dinner for only

# 30p

Donate by  
• post

Dark Lane, Coven,  
Wolverhampton WV10 7PN

• Text

FEED28 £3, £5, £7  
or £10 to 70070

Text costs donation plus a standard rate message. Must get 10p payer's permission.

• Call

0121 643 5018 (option 3)

• Online

[www.birminghamdogshome.org.uk](http://www.birminghamdogshome.org.uk)

Registered Charity No: 222436

## DON'T REPLACE... RESPRAY

### Kitchen Refurbishment with Amazing Results

DOORS  
from  
**£30\***

Drawers  
from  
**£12\***



## SAVE £1000'S ON A REPLACEMENT KITCHEN

### FREE No Obligation Quote

Why replace your kitchen when we can respray your dated kitchen

We Can spray just the Doors or your Whole Kitchen.

You can even dismantle yourself (keep cost down) or leave it to us

All colours. Farrow & Ball now matched.

Open: MON - FRI 8am - 4.30pm

Call  
Today, ready for  
Christmas

[www.admirecoatings.co.uk](http://www.admirecoatings.co.uk)

**Admire Coatings Ltd**

Tel: 01384 639793

Mob: 07824 997887

email: [tony@admirecoatings.co.uk](mailto:tony@admirecoatings.co.uk)

\*T & C apply



## STD CARPETS

Can guarantee fitting before Christmas, because we are one of the largest stockists of carpet in the country, we are not in the hands of the manufacturers

At STD we have top class fitters and the finest selection of carpets anywhere

Prices are up to **50% cheaper** than other stores with 100's of rolls of Wilton, Axminster, Saxony and Twist Pile in stock

So, if you want a carpet for Christmas get along to STD



Open 6 days a week 9.00 to 5.30  
Sunday 10.30 to 4.00,  
Closed Wednesdays

Church Street, Brierley Hill, DY5 3PT

**01384 76448**

BRIERLEY HILL



WILTON AXMINSTER SAXONY TWIST PILE

STANDARD

STANDARD

STANDARD



# BUY DIRECT FROM FACTORY PRICES AND GET AMAZING SAVINGS!!!

## UP TO 60% OFF

A Rated Frames & Glass

## BIGGEST

Midlands Manufacture  
Over 50,000 sq ft factory  
VISITS  
ARRANGED



Doors  
from  
£500

**AUTUMN OFFERS**

**3 Windows**  
Was £900 Now £670

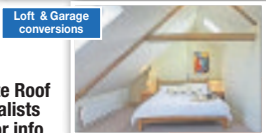
**4 Windows**  
Was £1180 Now £880

**5 Windows**  
Was £1300 Now £1090

**6 Windows**  
Was £1550 Now £1370  
Maximum Size 6ft x 4ft  
T&Cs apply



Conservatories



Loft & Garage conversions



Veranda/  
Al Fresco Dining/  
Carport

**SupaLife**  
MIDLANDS LTD

Supalite Roof  
specialists  
Call for info

**HIGH-SPEC**  
Windows & Conservatories

FACTORY & SHOWROOM  
Rood End Rd., Oldbury B68 8SF

**RING NOW 0121 552 9777**  
**FREEPHONE 0800 007 5312**

www.highspecinstallations.co.uk / hispec-sales@outlook.com

\*Terms & Conditions Apply All major credit cards accepted

**FREE NO  
OBLIGATION  
QUOTE**

## GasOn Spares Ltd

Over 50 cookers  
on display



**The Halesowen  
Cooker & Fire Centre**  
Tel: 0121 585 7799  
www.gasonspares.co.uk

Washing  
Machines  
from £199

We have good stocks of Range & 50cm/60cm Gas  
& Electric cookers, As well as Gas/Electric Fires.  
We Also supply all Genuine Manufacture spares -  
Most being stocked

248 Hagley Road, Hasbury, Halesowen B63 4QQ

**C&T DOORS &  
WINDOWS Ltd**

**SALE  
NOW  
ON**  
ALL AREAS  
COVERED...

Unglazed/Glazed Upvc Doors  
from **£349** FULLY FITTED



3mtr x 3mtr  
EDWARDIAN  
CONSERVATORY  
from **£4500**

**NEW OFFER**  
French/Patio Doors  
FULLY FITTED  
from **£649**

FULLY FITTED within 2 weeks For a service you can trust

MANY MORE DESIGNS AVAILABLE

•New Improved 10 Point Claw Lock •Steel Reinforced

www.candtdoorsandwindows.co.uk

Tel: **07759 536818** or **01902 842706**

email: enquiries@candtdoorsandwindows.co.uk

Isn't it time for a  
New Garage Door?  
With the **ESSATI SALE**, the  
decision's made so much easier

Our top of the range electric 'remote controlled' insulated aluminium  
rolling garage door - operated by hand held 'keyring' handset is  
currently reduced from a RRP of £2250 - to an amazing **£799**  
inc VAT & fitting.

**NOW JUST £799!**  
INCLUDING VAT & FREE FITTING



Price includes:

- Remote Control & keyring handset
- Includes free internal manual override
- All doors conform to BS1180 safety standard
- White as standard, other colours available - ask for details
- Extremely secure roller-bearing system
- Full 12 month warranty • Bottom rubber weatherseal
- Price is for very strong single door up to 6ft 6" wide
- Double glazed versions with foam insulation

**CALL 01245 396910**

This special offer includes free fitting.  
The offer on our website does not include free fitting.  
To benefit from this offer you should call 01245 396910

www.essatigaragedoors.co.uk



**Wollaston  
Bathrooms Ltd**  
Est. 1973

**Fully Fitted Bathrooms**  
From **£3000 inc VAT**  
900mm x 900mm Quadrant Tray and Shower  
Valve, W.C. Basin and Pedestal with Tap,  
18 Sqm Wall Tiles + 3 Sqm Floor Tiles!

**DISABILITY ADAPTIONS**  
"Adapting your bathroom for you."  
A wide range of bath and showering options are available, all  
designed to make bathing and showering easier and safer for you.  
"Save" you may be entitled to zero rated VAT

**Visit our showroom**

**FREE No Obligation** Survey and Quotation  
**Supply Only** Service Available  
**Trade enquiries welcome**

9 High Street Wollaston DY8 4NW  
Tel: 01384 374227 or 0800 1582456  
email: enquiries@wollastonbathrooms.ltd.uk

**Open:**  
Monday-Friday  
8.00am-5.00pm  
Saturday 9.00am-4.00pm

## Ladies are taken back to the 1950s

Kingswinford TG

THE guild met on November 7 in the community centre. The speaker was John Mobberly who has visited in previous years. As always, his talk, and the artefacts he brought were very stimulating.

The ladies certainly remembered the early 1950s, even if it was only by hearsay. He was warmly thanked by Chris Groves.

Much of the meeting was taken up in sorting out forthcoming events as there will be no business meeting in December because the ladies are out to Christmas lunch at their old favourite The Lodge, in Dudley.

Chairman Enid Fennell asked members to consider joining the committee as one current member wishes to take a break. New blood is always welcome on a committee as it brings fresh ideas. Wendy and Josie offered to wash up. Dawn was thanked for bring a lovely cyclamen to decorate the room, which she donated as an extra raffle prize. The raffle prizes were won by Joyce Robins and by Dawn, who won the plant which she promptly re-donated. It was then won by Elma Jasper.

The Scrabble group announced an alteration in the venues during November. The Wednesday Club will welcome husbands to their session on November 18 so that they may learn about things made in the Black Country.

In January, instead of a speaker, the ladies will be entertained by Brian and Liz Dickenson.

# Inspiring talk on cathedral buildings

## Coup as celebrity to address group

Clent Gardening Club

THE October meeting welcomed Ingrid Millington from Worfield to give a seasonal talk on Autumn in the Garden.

Another excellent turnout from club members and a couple of guests heard Ingrid commence by commenting how colourful gardens are at this time of year. She then proceeded to give an interesting talk, with occasional interjections from husband John who has previously entertained the club with his own gardening talks.

Ingrid proceeded to deliver her talk supplemented by a wide range of photographs of the various bulbs, annual and perennial plants in full bloom at this time of year together with some of the magnificent colours provided by the autumn foliage.

At the end of the meeting the chairman drew the raffle and announced the results of the monthly

Clent Gardening Club

competitions and reminded members that the next monthly meeting is on November 27 when the club welcomes celebrity gardener Alys Fowler to give a talk on How to Have Your Garden and Eat it. This is a new venture for the club as Alys will be the first ever celebrity speaker and the chairman happily advised that tickets had virtually sold out. This meeting celebrates the club's 75th anniversary.

All are welcome to our meetings which are held at Clent Village Hall on the fourth Friday each month. Anyone interested in either joining or visiting the club can get further details by visiting https://clentgardeningclub.wordpress.com or by contacting chairman Martin Grange on 01562 883009/07917 184762.

K'ford Ladies Social Circle

THE ladies met at The Royal British Legion on November 5. Chairman Sheila Evans welcomed everyone including the speaker Keith Cattel. She expressed the club's condolences to Kath Turner on the sad loss of her son. Unfortunately, the treasurer is back in hospital, and she is wished a speedy recovery. Member Pauline is making a steady recovery.

Secretary Pam Ingman read the minutes of the last meeting and Sheila read the treasurer's report. She said £110 made at the harvest sale was donated to The Royal British Legion. The Christmas dinner will be on December 10 at The Station Hotel, Dudley. The group's own Christmas party will be on December 3 - tickets on sale to members only.

Mr Cattel gave an interesting and detailed talk about the building of cathedrals. He used slides to illustrate the varying architecture, windows, domes and difficulties which the builders had to overcome. For 235 years Lincoln was the tallest cathedral but now Salisbury is regarded as having that honour.

Kath gave the vote of thanks. June Seddon and Sheila Evans won raffle prizes.

# Big turnout for first meeting

THE club's first meeting was on September 16 in the Darby and Joan Club, Abbey Road and there was a magnificent turnout of 42 ladies.

They listened to a talk by Alan Rudge on nursery rhymes which was very entertaining and then they socialised with a cup of tea and a biscuit. There was a poppy mak-

Gornal Wood TWG

ing demonstration at the meeting on October 21, with any poppies made on the day going on display in the Council Offices for Remembrance Sunday.

**Express & Star** **READER OFFER**

## Letters from Father Christmas

Christmas is the most magical time of year, so deliver some of that magic to someone you love this year!

Imagine the look of delight on your little one's face when they receive their very own personalised letter from Father Christmas!

For just **£4.99** per child, they will receive a personalised letter with good behaviour certificate, a festive colouring picture and a festive door hanger to use on Christmas Eve. The pack will be sent in a Christmas themed envelope with free postage.

**How to Order**

Simply complete the form below and send it with your payment to: Personal Christmas Letters, PO Box 148, Bourne PE10 1DZ. Remember to enclose your payment of just £4.99 per child that you are ordering for. Payments can be made by cheque or postal order.

Alternatively buy online using your debit/credit card at [www.personalchristmasletters.co.uk](http://www.personalchristmasletters.co.uk). Please input **EXP15** in the online box "where did you hear about us".

This offer is for UK residents only. For overseas orders please visit our website.

All orders received on or before the 30th November will be sent out on Tuesday 1st December. All orders thereafter will be posted within 48 hours of receipt, until the closing date of 16th December. Designs may vary.

**Closing date for orders: 16 December 2015**  
All packs will be sent out from 1 December

## Letters from Father Christmas

Please make your cheque payable to Personal Christmas Letters and send your order to: Personal Christmas Letters, PO Box 148, Bourne PE10 1DZ

(Please complete in CAPITALS)

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Sender's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone / Email (should we need to contact you): \_\_\_\_\_ (please continue order on a separate sheet if required)

REF: **EXP15**

The publishers of this newspaper may contact you regarding relevant offers and competitions. If you do not wish to receive this information please tick ☐ If you do not wish to receive any further information from Personal Christmas Letters please tick ☐



# The Fizzogs are massive in Mongolia



Something to smile about — Black Country troupe The Fizzogs are a hit in Mongolia too with their dancing grannies routine

DANCING grannies sensation The Fizzogs have won over thousands of fans in the West Midlands – and now the comedy trio are a hit in Asia too. A staggering eight million people have now viewed the group's Dancing Grannies routine after a video of them was picked up by a Mongolian record label.

The group have appeared at events across the Black Country and this year visited the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. But now they are spreading their wings after they became a YouTube hit.

The online video shows Fizzogs Sue Hawkins, Deb Nicholls and Jacky Fel-

lows performing one of their dances to South Korean star Psy's Gangnam Style at Edinburgh in the summer.

It is the second time the Grannies have been projected on to the internet after their dance at the Stourbridge Festival went viral earlier this year.

But this latest outbreak of Fizzog mania has mystified the three founder members of the group.

Sue Hawkins said: "We don't really know how the Mongolian company picked up the video. Maybe it's because the music is by a South Korean star, which would explain its appeal in the Far East.

"We haven't a clue what is being

said on the Mongolian Facebook page about us. We have tried to get it translated via Google without any success. What we might do now is contact the Mongolian Embassy in London to see if they can help us. The response to the video has been amazing. At one time we calculated it was being viewed at the rate of 8,000 times a minute. It's just gone crazy."

The Mongolian record company site is called Zowhon Sonirholtoi Bichleg Zurag.

The Fizzogs are rehearsing for their coming pantomime Freezin', a Black Country spoof of the film Frozen. For more details visit [www.thefizzogs.com](http://www.thefizzogs.com)

By order of the principals of Midland Furniture Sales in connection with Bed City. Specialist Buyers of New, Discontinued and Bankrupt Furniture and Beds

## PUBLIC NOTICE FURNITURE SALE

We are a specialist company, Disposing of Brand New and Display Furniture. Direct to the public with huge discounts off normal retail or internet prices.

**We have on offer to clear**

**£46,000 NEW DISCONTINUED AND BANKRUPT FURNITURE AND BEDS**  
WE OPEN 3 DAYS ONLY PER WEEK FOR SELLING.

**FOR 3 DAYS ONLY - THIS FRIDAY, SATURDAY and SUNDAY 10am - 4pm**

This SALE in our new Blackheath branch will comprise of a very large quantity of wardrobes, chests of drawers, tall boys, dressing tables, bedside chests and cupboards, dressing stools, mirrors etc. All of modern/latest design/styles and colours. All goods are on display and can be removed from the sale at time purchase, stored free of charge for future delivery or collection. Delivery arrangements can be made. A small deposit secures any sale item on day of sale.

Also on sale will be a large quantity of **BEDS & MATTRESSES** odd **HEADBOARDS, MIRRORS, VARIOUS SIZES AND STYLES, WALL AND FREE STANDING, PICTURES (LARGE RANGE) ODD CHAIRS....**  
**OTHER CLEARANCE ITEMS!!**

All to go regardless of cost.

**PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A FIXED PRICE VASTLY REDUCED SALE.**

**Direct to the public NOT AN AUCTION.**

**GOODS WILL BE SOLD ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS.**

**Examples of starting prices.**

Wardrobes from £50, Bedside Chests from £25, Mirrors from £15, Mattresses from £45, Beds (double) from £90 all at 1/2 price or less, 50% plus discount! Exceptional discounted prices. Any sensible and reasonable offers will be considered.

**Sale to be held at:**

**MIDLAND FURNITURE SALES**  
**Long Lane Industrial Estate, Shell Corner,**  
**Long Lane, Blackheath B62 9LD**  
**Tel: 07772 046121**

# Flavourz

**Freshly cooked all you can eat buffet!!**  
**Authentic World Cuisine to choose from!!**

**Increased Menu Options**  
**Unlimited Free Refills!!**

**Selection of exquisite cocktails, wines & spirits!!**  
**For an Experience like no other!!**

**Come taste the authentic**

**Flavourz of the World**

**Book Now!!**

**Please check our website for opening times and prices**



**Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury, West Midlands B68 8LQ**  
**Telephone: 0121 552 0041 [www.flavourz.co.uk](http://www.flavourz.co.uk)**



**KIDS 4 AND UNDER EAT ABSOLUTELY FREE!**

*Eat, Drink and be Merry ...*

**Two Course**  
**Three Course**  
**Unlimited Course.....Starting at £9.99**

**Open on Christmas Day**

Monday to Friday **20%** Discount on Food

offer not valid Christmas Day & New Years Day

QUOTE: BROM



# Museum stays in pipeline as part of attraction's plans

**ALLOWING overnight stays and building an area focusing on the modern day are just some of the ideas laid out in an ambitious vision for the Black Country Living Museum.**

A five-year plan sets out the museum's goal of attracting 500,000 visitors a year – its current figures are around 290,000.

Andrew Lovett, director and chief executive, confirmed museum bosses are mulling over plans to let people spend their holidays on the site.

## Restoration of chapels on display

PEOPLE will be offered a behind-the-scenes look at the restoration of historic Black Country chapels later this month.

A long-awaited £1 million project to revamp Lye and Wollescote Chapels is nearing completion.

Acting chairman of the West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust John Woodall will be welcoming people to look at the renovations on Saturday, November 28.

He said: "This project has been made possible by fantastic community support. As the work on site is nearing completion, this is an opportunity to welcome local people to drop in. They can view the revival of this important historic building that has been carried out using traditional heritage construction skills."

The chapels will be open from 10.30am until 1pm. Photographic displays will show 'before and after' results of the project. For further details call 07805 489 296.

The masterplan also sets out ideas to redevelop the southern half of the site – which visitors first come across when they walk through the entrance – to provide a fully joined up journey.

By focusing on modern day manufacturing in the Black Country in this section, the museum would offer a counterpoint to the history experience in the popular Canal Street area.

### Legacy

"What we're thinking is we want to explain the legacy of the story that we tell in the historic area," Mr Lovett said.

"In the non-historic area we want to have some sort of focus on modern manufacturing – that could be exhibitions, displays or events about what's happening in the Black Country today."

"History doesn't stop – it's a continuum and we want to put things into context."

"We think we could get up to 500,000 visitors a year."

"At the back of our minds is about fulfilling the potential that exists within the museum."

"We've got the story to tell and the right size of site so we're looking to develop from around 290,000 this year – so targeting 500,000 doesn't seem at all unreasonable."

Mr Lowell said they were discussing allowing people to stay in the museum overnight, adding this was an example of the site's immersive nature.

## Lucky escape for baby as car overturns



**The family car ended up on its roof in an early-morning crash in Dudley** Picture: Dudley Fire Station

A six-month-old baby had a lucky escape when the car she was travelling in overturned in a crash in the Black Country.

The little girl escaped serious injury because she was in a child seat when the smash happened in Salop Street, Dudley, shortly before 5am on Sunday.

The Peugeot 206 was in collision with a taxi that was carrying two female passengers on their way home after a night out and ended up up on its roof.

Firefighter Stephen Hunter from

Dudley fire station who attended the scene with colleagues from Brierley Hill explained: "The baby and her father were out of the car and being attended to by paramedics when we arrived. It was very lucky the girl had been in a child's seat."

The Peugeot was badly damaged while the taxi suffered front end damage in the collision. Nobody is thought to have been badly hurt.

Meanwhile, a woman suffered minor injuries in a separate crash in Dudley involving two cars. The smash hap-

pened around 8pm on Saturday on the Halesowen Road. Two fire crews, one from Dudley and another from Haden Cross, attended as it was initially feared the woman, in her 30s, would have to be cut free. But ambulance crews managed to get her out of the vehicle. She was taken to hospital suffering neck and back pain.

Watch commander Dave Smith said: "We went out because it was thought the woman was trapped due to her injuries but the heart care team from Birmingham managed to get her out."

## Third suspect now arrested after shooting

DETECTIVES investigating a double shooting in Birmingham arrested a third person on suspicion of murder after swooping on an address in Tivdale.

A firearms warrant was executed in Tivdale on Friday night and a Birmingham man was arrested on suspicion of murder.

The 33-year-old is being questioned by detectives investigating the murder of 25-year-old Derek Junior Myers on October 30 in Soho Hill, Hockley.

A second man, who was injured during the incident, was in a critical condition in hospital.

Two other men remained on police bail while enquiries continued.

Detective Chief Inspector Caroline Marsh, who is leading the investigation, said: "My team of detectives continue to sift through information to identify those who were involved in this incident."

"A man has lost his life and another remains critical in hospital and we would continue to appeal for anyone with information to come forward and contact us."

"If you were there or have been told anything about what happened, please get in touch."

Anyone with information for the investigation is asked to contact DCI Marsh on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## National Express run Christmas Day buses

BUSES will be running from Wolverhampton to London, Birmingham and Coventry on Christmas Day.

National Express has announced it will also be running the same services from Dudley.

The news will be welcomed by travellers as there will be no train services across the country running.

With a limited train service on Boxing Day as well, National Express said it is running a near-full schedule.

+5YG  
available on  
selected models

SONY

FREE  
SOUND BAR  
WITH SELECTED 4K TVs\*

4K  
Ultra HD

**Chapman's Electrical**  
112-119 Reddal Hill Road  
Cradley Heath, B64 5JN  
  
Tel: 01384 566497

[www.chapmanselectrical.co.uk](http://www.chapmanselectrical.co.uk)  
  
FREE PARKING

\*Terms and conditions apply, promotion runs from 1st October 2015 to 22nd November 2015. Free Sound Bar HT-CT80 with selected TVs (models include 49"XB3, 55"XB5, 65"XB5, 75"XB5, 55"SB5, 65"SB5, 55"X90, 65"X90, 75"X91). Free Subwoofer SWF-B100 with selected TVs (models include 55"X93, 65"X93, 75"X94, 75"X90B & 85"X95B).  
\*Sony and the Sony logo are registered trademarks of Sony Corporation. All other logos and trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

710094-55



GET ready to shout 'he's behind you' as Kinver Operatic Society gear up for their annual pantomime in the South Staffs village.

More than 30 cast members are aiming to delight audiences with their version of Dick Whittington, which will run at Kinver High School from Sunday, November 29, to Saturday, December 5.

Nina Best, publicity officer for the society, said: "Every single year we try to make our panto bigger and better than ever before and this year is no exception."

"We are really excited and will have all the expected costumes and characters ranging from a dame to a boy playing the lead as a girl. It is great comedy value for all the family to come along and enjoy. We have already sold a lot of our weekend tickets.

"When our panto season arrives it marks the start of Christmas. Our standard is incredibly high with fantastic costumes, and we just hope that everyone can come along and enjoy what we have to offer."

Kinver Operatic Society were formed in 1977 and perform their main shows every May and December. Tickets for the panto are £9. For more information visit the society's website at [www.klos.co.uk](http://www.klos.co.uk)

**A ROW has broken out over bowling green maintenance fees in Dudley after claims that the price hike would go against covenants dating back almost 90 years.**

Dudley Council's Greencare team held a crisis meeting last week with bowling club members over the controversial plans.

The council, which needs to save £20 million by 2018, pays around £12,000 a year to maintain the greens at each of the borough's eight bowling clubs. Clubs themselves pay only £750 towards those costs

Council bosses say they can no longer afford to subsidise these costs, leaving clubs facing a massive bill.

Club members using Mary Stevens Park, in Stourbridge, and Stevens Park, in Wollescote, held the meeting with council officials about the proposed changes.



**Councillor Heather Rogers**

Both parks were gifted to the public by philanthropist and businessman Ernest Stevens, to be managed by the council as a trustee.

Campaigners argue under the deed of gifts for both parks, dated 1929 and 1931, Dudley Council is obligated to maintain the greens.

Phil Bate, chairman of Stourbridge Croquet Club, said: "We all feel very strongly that the council should look at the deed of gift before making these demands."

"The greens are not in the best of condition and we have not got the money," Councillor Heather Rogers, chairman of the Friends of Mary Stevens Park, added: "Dudley Council as a trustee is responsible for maintaining the assets and so far we have not heard anything about the Ernest Stevens deed of gift."

"We have no responsibility of maintenance and are not the sole users of these greens.

# King and I on the way



Ready to appear in Kinver panto Dick Whittington are, from left, Nina Best, Annie Fellows and Charlotte Wood

A HALF-MILE stretch of Black Country canal that has stood derelict since the 1960s will be brought back into use

Plans are being drawn up to restore the section of the Bradley Arm in Bilston and link it up with the Walsall Canal.

The annual meeting of the Canal and River Trust West Midlands Partnership was told the Bradley Arm had been the subject of a newly completed study.

The Bradley Arm, which was built in the 18th and 19th centuries, now runs only as far as the trust's main maintenance depot at Bradley Lane, which still makes wooden lock gates.

This also houses the pump originally installed for mine drainage, which is now the main source of water to the Birmingham Canal.

Steve Burt, who heads community engagement and volunteering for the partnership, said: "The Bradley Arm and the lock gate workshop are a very important part of the network. Old masonry is just below the surface and this will now be exposed."



**EXTENDED for ONE final weekend!**

**FINAL 3 DAYS!**

**"To make way for our new 2016 furniture ranges, we're clearing large quantities of surplus lounge, leather, living & bedroom furniture, including beds!"**

**NO REASONABLE  
OFFER REFUSED!**

**WILLIAM & SONS**  
**CLEARANCE**

## SHOWROOM & WAREHOUSE RE-ORGANISATION

**SAVE UP TO 75%! ■ ALL STOCK MUST GO! ■ DOORS CLOSE SUNDAY 5PM!**

<b>CLEARANCE</b> <b>£1289</b>	<b>ALSTONS GATSBY</b> Classical grand sofa, chair & 2 x banquette stools in luxurious fabric <b>OVER 65% OFF TO CLEAR!</b> <b>Was £3729 Save £2440</b>	<b>SALOTTI ITALIA CAIRO</b> Luxurious cream sofa in CAT 20 real Italian leather <b>60% OFF TO CLEAR!</b> <b>Was £2159 Save £1300</b>	<b>CLEARANCE</b> <b>£859</b>	<b>CLEARANCE</b> <b>£319</b>	<b>CAXTON LYNWOOD</b> Contemporary light oak dining table, 4 ivory chairs <b>75% OFF TO CLEAR!</b> <b>Was £1279 Save £960</b>	<b>RAUCH MONTEREY</b> Model SN16 4 door hanging robe in maple finish - slight damage <b>62% OFF TO CLEAR!</b> <b>Was £529 Save £330</b>	<b>CLEARANCE</b> <b>£199</b>
<b>CLEARANCE</b> <b>£1499</b>	<b>ASHWOOD SYMPHONY</b> Large & small sofas plus power recliner chair in Nabucco Parchment fabric <b>LESS THAN HALF PRICE TO CLEAR!</b> <b>Was £3049 Save £1550</b>	<b>HTL CREMINA</b> Large twin power motion sofa in CAT25 two-tone taupe & silver grey leather <b>55% OFF TO CLEAR!</b> <b>Was £2199 Save £1200</b>	<b>CLEARANCE</b> <b>£999</b>	<b>CLEARANCE</b> <b>£249</b>	<b>ZONE CENTRO</b> Contemporary dark oak large sideboard <b>OVER 60% OFF TO CLEAR!</b> <b>Was £649 Save £400</b>	<b>FURNITURE ORIGINS TRINITY</b> King-size bedframe <b>OVER 57% OFF TO CLEAR!</b> <b>Was £699 Save £400</b>	<b>CLEARANCE</b> <b>£299</b>
<b>CLEARANCE</b> <b>£999</b>	<b>STEED TOWCESTER</b> Classical small sofa, easy chair & scatterers <b>75% OFF TO CLEAR!</b> <b>Was £4069 Save £3070</b>	<b>ESSENTIALS ROSSINI</b> Small double motion sofa in Black fawn leather <b>OVER 60 % OFF TO CLEAR!</b> <b>Was £899 Save £550</b>	<b>CLEARANCE</b> <b>£349</b>	<b>CLEARANCE</b> <b>£199</b>	<b>MORRIS PALOMA</b> Model 037 light display unit <b>75% OFF TO CLEAR!</b> <b>Was £799 Save £600</b>	<b>NOLTE SALERNO</b> Tall 5 draw chest <b>75% OFF TO CLEAR!</b> <b>Was £549 Save £412</b>	<b>CLEARANCE</b> <b>£137</b>
<b>CLEARANCE</b> <b>£299</b>	<b>SCAN THOR TOGO</b> Small sofa in contemporary plain grey fabric with chrome feet scabbling <b>60% OFF TO CLEAR!</b> <b>Was £749 Save £450</b>	<b>SITBEST SLOGEN</b> 2 seater power recliner sofa in Paloma Melon leather <b>67% OFF TO CLEAR!</b> <b>Was £3035 Save £2036</b>	<b>CLEARANCE</b> <b>£999</b>	<b>CLEARANCE</b> <b>£159</b>	<b>BAKER GERONA</b> Contemporary styled GE10 coffee table in rich walnut finish <b>OVER 70% OFF TO CLEAR!</b> <b>Was £539 Save £380</b>	<b>MYER'S CORAL CHARM</b> Model VISION/NEW 1050 100 double (135cm) storage divan set <b>LESS THAN HALF PRICE TO CLEAR!</b> <b>Was £549 Save £280</b>	<b>CLEARANCE</b> <b>£269</b>
<b>CLEARANCE</b> <b>£399</b>	<b>ROM FIONA</b> Contemporary accent chair, scatter cushion & stool set in slate grey fabric <b>60% OFF TO CLEAR!</b> <b>Was £985 Save £586</b>	<b>ESSENTIALS BRESCIA</b> Contemporary lounge chair in black fawn leather <b>75% OFF TO CLEAR!</b> <b>Was £499 Save £374</b>	<b>CLEARANCE</b> <b>£125</b>	<b>CLEARANCE</b> <b>£199</b>	<b>MARK WEBSTER NEWARK</b> Model 015M/NEW medical re-climbed pine tall bookcase <b>68% OFF TO CLEAR!</b> <b>Was £619 Save £420</b>	<b>HARRISONS'</b> Sapphire pocket spring double divan set (155x190cm) & Liberty bedstead <b>65% OFF TO CLEAR!</b> <b>Was £2849 Save £1850</b>	<b>CLEARANCE</b> <b>£999</b>



**In your home for Christmas, plus MASSIVE DISCOUNTS available on all special order items!**





# CENTRAL MARKET HALL

HIGH STREET, CRADLEY HEATH  
(The Little Market, next to Iceland)  
[www.central-market.co.uk](http://www.central-market.co.uk)

Stalls available for selected trades  
All enquiries to Oliver Watchorn

07850 742961

## Christmas Opening Times Central Market Hall Cradley Heath

Monday 21st Dec: 9.00 - 4.00  
Tuesday 22nd Dec: 9.00 - 4.00  
Wednesday 23rd Dec: 9.00 - 4.00  
Thursday 24th Dec: 9.00 - 4.00  
Christmas Day & Boxing Day Closed  
Tuesday 29th Dec: 9.00 - 2.00  
Wednesday 30th Dec: 9.00 - 4.00  
Thursday 31st Dec: 9.00 - 2.00  
Friday 1st Jan: Closed  
Normal opening times resume on  
Saturday 2nd January

Love Your Local Market

## Revival of Broadway classic is on the way



Coming to Birmingham — a scene from Frank Loesser's colourful New York musical Guys And Dolls, set in the early 1950s

BILLED as the most perfect musical comedy ever, much-loved classic Guys And Dolls comes to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday, November 24 to Saturday, December 5.

The Alex hosts this highly acclaimed Chichester Festival Theatre production prior to a limited run at the Savoy Theatre in London's West End.

Joining Sophie Thompson as Miss Adelaide and Jamie Parker as Sky Masterson, are David Haig as Nathan Detroit and Siobhan Harrison as Sarah Brown.

Guys And Dolls will see Sophie

Thompson and David Haig perform together for the first time since their comic pairing as bride and groom, Lydia and Bernard, in the British smash hit film, Four Weddings And A Funeral.

### Vibrant

A joyous and vibrant celebration of New York, Guys And Dolls first premiered on Broadway in 1950 and captured the optimism and energy of post-war America.

Based on 1930s stories by American journalist Damon Runyon, renowned for his vivid depictions of the gam-

blers, hustlers and nightclub singers of New York, this multi award-winning musical features some of Broadway's greatest numbers including Luck Be A Lady and the show-stopping Sit Down You're Rockin' The Boat.

Guys And Dolls is directed by Gordon Greenberg with choreography by Cuban dancer and Royal Ballet star Carlos Acosta with Andrew Wright whose credits include Chichester Festival Theatre's Singin' In The Rain.

See [www.atgtickets.com/venues/new-alexandra-theatre-birmingham](http://www.atgtickets.com/venues/new-alexandra-theatre-birmingham) or call 0844 8713011.

Want to use your conservatory all year round?  
Too HOT in summer?  
Too COLD in winter?



Replace your existing roof with a Supalite Roof System lightweight replacement for your conservatory roof

- Choice of tiles and colours
- Save energy, conserve heat
- Fitting Teams available



**SupaLite**  
MIDLANDS LTD

SUPALITE MIDLANDS LTD have the solution ....

ONLY MIDLANDS MANUFACTURER

No Planning Permission needed!

0121 552 0100 / 0800 0075313

[www.supalitemidlands.com](http://www.supalitemidlands.com) /  
[sales@supalitemidlands.com](mailto:sales@supalitemidlands.com)

**Designa Blinds**  
Vertical Blind Specialist

[www.designa-blinds.com](http://www.designa-blinds.com)

Tel: 0121 293 7119

Child Safe - Cordless Systems

Full Range of Fabrics

Fast Reliable Service

Competitive Pricing

**Fabrics only  
Service available**

See our showroom on Bearwood Indoor Market

Conservatories from £275

Average Semi £300

Showroom at:  
• 10 Wassel Rd, Hasbury, Halesowen B63 4LF

Factory Showroom:

• Wolverhampton Road South B32 2AX



There is one small job that you have been meaning to do for years -

## Make Your Will

Only £75.00 plus VAT  
Per person for couples, Mirror Wills.

Single Wills £80.00 plus VAT

A home visit at a convenient time

For information and appointment call

0845 678 7010

Mobile: 07771 992717

Wills, Trusts, Lasting Powers of Attorney, Will Storage, Estate Planning and Guardianship Trusts

Members of the Society of Will Writers

Goodwills Legal Services Ltd

[www.goodwillsmidlands.co.uk](http://www.goodwillsmidlands.co.uk)



21st November 2015  
Christmas Lights Switch On  
Pop in and see us for a  
Free Sweet Treat

If you book your cake on the day we will give you 10% off the total bill

3 Hagley Road, Halesowen B63 4PU  
0121 448 2494



## Accident verdict on driver's death

A LORRY driver from Dudley died after his vehicle collided with another HGV along a section of the M6 motorway, an inquest was told.

Father-of-five Lee Smith, better known as Andy, aged 46, of Wrens Nest was travelling between junctions 4 and 4a, in the Chelmsley Wood area, when the accident took place.

It happened on July 7 when Mr Smith was driving a Mercedes drop sided lorry.

Coroner for Birmingham and Solihull Emma Brown gave a conclusion of accidental death at an inquest last week.

The hearing was told Mr Smith's vehicle had collided with the rear of another HGV.

Mr Smith was the youngest of eight siblings. He also had three daughters, two sons and five granddaughters.

## Rubbish mountain still stands



Million pound mound — the rubbish is still piled high at Refuse Derived Fuel on Moor Street

CALLS have been made for the Environment Agency to pay for the removal of a mountain of rubbish which is causing an ongoing nightmare for nearby residents.

Planning permission has been granted for 94 flats on the former Refuse Derived Fuel site in Moor Street, Brierley Hill, where the rubbish sits, but the scheme has now been thrown into doubt over who picks up the bill to remove the trash.

It has emerged that owners of the site have not been able to attract a developer due to the costs involved with clearing the waste.

Meanwhile, neighbours who thought their six-year nightmare living in the shadow of the 19ft-high heap was over when the plans were approved in June now face living longer with the mound on their doorstep.

### Million

Five months on, the pile of bricks, wood and plastic remains.

It is believed any developer getting on board with the plans would have to pay at least £1 million to clear the site.

Brierley Hill's Councillor Rachel Harris, who has led the campaign to have the rubbish shifted, said she cannot see any devel-

## Town hall screen is a sell-out success

A SCREEN installed at Stourbridge Town Hall to show National Theatre productions is proving to be a sell-out success.

Hundreds of people have flocked to watch stars such as Benedict Cumberbatch and Tom Hiddleston via a live satellite link to National Theatre productions in London.

Cumberbatch's acclaimed Hamlet production, currently running at the Barbican Theatre, was a top attraction and the broadcast at Stourbridge earlier this month sold out.

Tonight (Thu) the venue shows the National Theatre production Of Mice And Men starring James Franco and Chris O'Dowd.

A live broadcast of Dame Judi Dench's The Winter's Tale on November 26 also sold out within days, but there are still tickets to see an 'encore' showing of the production on December 2.

A series of both live and recorded London performances are being showcased on the seven-metre wide screen which was installed at the Crown Centre venue last month. It is also being used for the hall's regular movies.

# Concern over jobs as four tax offices to close in shake-up

**FOUR tax offices in the Black Country are to shut as part of plans revealed by HM Revenue & Customs to cut £100 million from its budget.**

Jobs could be lost as HMRC looks to close 137 local offices across the country by 2027.

Staff in the region will initially transfer to the remaining 17 offices before a new regional centre opens in Birmingham in 2019/20.

But unions fear the plan could lead to thousands of HMRC's 56,000 staff being made redundant and have called for a parliamentary review into the closures.

Bosses at HMRC were unable to confirm how many jobs would go as part of what they call a 'modernisation programme'.

Four Black Country offices will close including Bridge House in Brierley Hill, which will close in 2016/17, with staff moving into City Centre House, Birmingham, before moving to the new regional centre in 2019-20.

The Merry Hill office will transfer to the Department for Work and Pensions. Pattison House in Walsall will close next year with staff moving to City Centre House in Birmingham as a transitional site. Crown House in Wolver-

hampton will close in 2019/20, with staff moving into the new regional centre. HMRC says it expects between 3,100 and 3,400 full-time staff to work in the new Birmingham regional centre.

In the last five years more than 10,000 jobs have been cut from the department and 250 offices have closed, along with 281 walk-in tax enquiry centres.

Lin Homer, HMRC's chief executive, said: "The new regional centre in Birmingham will bring our staff together in a more modern and cost-effective building in an area with lower rent."

## Jobs initiative being launched

A JOBS scheme which helps people living in an area of Dudley get into work or training has been launched.

Every Wednesday, the Salvation Army Citadel, in North Street, opens its doors to the City Deal drop-in sessions.

People aged over 18, who have been out of work for more than six months and living in social housing in Kates Hill is entitled to the free one-on-one support.

Training expert Black Country Training Group (BCTG) is working with the government-backed City Deal scheme to provide the support.

City Deal worker Lynne Cocken runs the Wednesday sessions from 10.30am to 2.30pm offering help and support to people like single mothers.

## SUMMERHILL Bathrooms

### Genuine Price Reductions

<div><b>NEW RANGE NOW AVAILABLE</b></div> <div><b>RESORT</b></div> <div>Furniture Combinations</div>	<div><b>DESIGNER SUITE</b></div> <div>Basin, pedestal, pan and cistern with soft close seat</div> <div><b>£169</b></div> <div>TAKE AWAY TODAY</div>	<div><b>DESIGNER 600 VANITY UNIT</b></div> <div><b>SALE PRICE £159</b></div> <div>TAKE AWAY TODAY</div>	<div><b>DESIGNER 400 CLOAK ROOM VANITY UNIT</b></div> <div><b>£99</b></div> <div>TAKE AWAY TODAY</div>	
	<div><b>CHOICE OF QUALITY MODERN SUITES</b></div> <div>Pan, cistern, pedestal, 500 basin &amp; soft close seat.</div> <div><b>SALE PRICE £139</b></div> <div>TAKE AWAY TODAY</div>	<div><b>1050 COMBI UNIT</b></div> <div><del>WAS £399</del> <b>SALE PRICE £249</b></div> <div>INCLUDES: Furniture, semi recess basin, concealed cistern, back to wall pan &amp; deluxe soft close seat.</div>	<div><b>P AND L SHAPED BATHS</b></div> <div>INCLUDES P or L shaped bath, front panel, bath screen with safety glass and towel rail.</div> <div><b>SALE PRICE £329</b></div> <div><b>SALE PRICE £369</b></div>	
<div><b>MIRA THERMOSTATIC VALVE Rail, hose and head</b></div> <div><b>SALE PRICE £149</b></div> <div>TRITON T80Z</div> <div><b>7.5kw, 8.5w, 9.5kw and 10.5kw</b></div> <div><b>SALE PRICE £139</b></div> <div>TAKE AWAY TODAY</div>	<div><b>QUADRANT ENCLOSURES SILVER STERLING</b></div> <div><b>ONLY £199</b></div> <div>800/900 or 1000mm includes base &amp; waste</div>	<div><b>TUBULAR RADIATORS</b></div> <div><b>Straight Chrome 600 x 800 £69</b></div> <div><b>600 x 1100 £79</b></div> <div><b>Curved Chrome 600 x 800 £79</b></div> <div><b>600 x 1100 £89</b></div> <div>TAKE AWAY TODAY</div>	<div><b>'TOP QUALITY' CHROME TAP SET</b></div> <div><b>FROM £79</b></div> <div>Chrome on solid brass with ceramic disc technology while stocks last</div> <div>LIMITED STOCK</div>	<div><b>VANITY UNITS AT SALE PRICES</b></div> <div>Soft close doors complete with vitreous basin.</div> <div><b>400 £79</b></div> <div><b>450 £89</b></div> <div><b>550 £109</b></div> <div><b>650 £119</b></div> <div><b>750 £169</b></div> <div><b>850 £199</b></div> <div>TAKE AWAY TODAY</div>

**BRADLEY STREET PENSNETT DY5 4RJ Tel: 01384 263626**  
**OPEN 7 DAYS 9AM-6PM MONDAY TO SATURDAY**  
**LATE 'TIL 8' FRIDAY 11AM - 4PM SUNDAY AMPLE FREE PARKING**  
**'PRICE PROMISE!' WE PROMISE TO BEAT ANY QUOTE INCLUDING ONLINE**  
**Trust the experts....**  
**Trade Enquiries Welcome**



## High Street festive fun and market

A FESTIVE market, fun-fair and live entertainment will be held to mark the Christmas lights switch-on in Blackheath on Saturday.

Mayor of Sandwell Councillor Barbara Price will officially do the honours on Blackheath High Street on Saturday at 6pm.

Visitors can enjoy entertainment from St Michael's High School Band, the B65 choir, Spotlight dance and the Salvation Army Band, performers from Conegre Performing Arts, and Santa himself.

Councillor Kerrie Carmichael said: "We welcome people to come along and get into the festive spirit."

"There will be walkabout performers, charity stalls, a festive market, funfair and live entertainment on stage from 3pm to 7pm. There's plenty of fun for all the family."

The lights are supported by Blackheath Traders Association, A Better Blackheath Association and Community Volunteers.

Road closures from noon.

## Carol concert helps hospice

BLACKHEATH Central Community Choir will be performing a concert and carol service with proceeds going to Mary Stevens Hospice.

They will be singing at Central Methodist Church, in High Street on Saturday, December 12, at 7pm. Tickets for the concert cost £5. Call 0121 559 1509.

## FOCUS ON BLACKHEATH AND ROWLEY REGIS

# Fundraising gathers pace to help Leah walk unaided

**A YOUNG girl born three months early with a form of cerebral palsy is getting closer raising enough money for an operation that could transform her life**

Suffering from spastic diplegia, six-year-old Rowley Regis schoolgirl Leah Davy has never been able to walk without help as her leg muscles are so tight that she is unable to put her feet flat on the floor.

After being told by doctors two years ago that she needs a life-changing operation which would cost £35,000, her family launched an appeal to raise the money and are now up to nearly £25,000.

The money has been raised through events, charity days and the kindness and generosity of local people who have heard her story.

### Pub

The youngster, who attends Springfield Primary School, currently uses a Kaye walker, a type of frame, to get around.

Leah's mum, Katherine, aged 29, was contacted by a worker from The Dog pub, on the Hagley Road, Warley, who donated around £400 and that was made up to £1,000 by one of the regulars, Peter Elliott.

The pub held a fundraiser for the youngster last month and will now continue to support the Leah, who is

By David Callaghan

also supported by charity Tree of Hope.

Katherine said: "We have just been so overwhelmed by the support and compassion shown by everybody since we started the appeal over two years ago."

"It's been brilliant and places my faith back in humanity. We've had donations from complete strangers."

She added: "The day is getting closer to seeing my Leah walk normally with a smile on her face."

"She's such a happy and energetic girl but does get really sad when she can't do normal things like run around and play with her friends."

"We hope to keep the momentum going and hopefully next year hit the £35,000 target."

To donate go to [www.justgiving.com/leahswish/](http://www.justgiving.com/leahswish/)



Katherine Davy and daughter Leah with pub fundraisers Peter Elliott and Lisa Robinson, taking the fund to £25,000

## Goals issue warning over profits

FIVE-A-SIDE football specialist Goals Soccer Centres has issued its second profits warning in two months after its autumn growth targets fell short of expectations.

The company, which has sites in Rowley Regis and Willenhall, warned over profits in September after a washout summer.

That announcement led to the company losing one fifth of its stock market value.

Now it has told investors that it has cut its forecasts again, and said it was hoping for better weather in the winter to prevent further falls in value.

"Trading in the UK business over the summer holiday period had been challenging," the company said. "Whilst we have made progress since then, the speed of this recovery has not been at the level anticipated."

## Saplings to mark lives

A SCHOOL planted tree saplings to commemorate the fallen troops of the First World War.

Pupils at The Westminster School, in Rowley Regis, marked Armistice Day by planting the saplings to signify 109 from Rowley Regis who lost their lives.

A remembrance service was held, led by Rev Ian Shelton.

Each of the trees will be marked with the names of local men who died.

## There's something for everyone at... BLACKHEATH MARKET

**OPEN**

Monday 9.00 am-4.30 pm (except Bank Holiday Mondays)  
Friday & Saturday 9.00 am-5.00 pm

**CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES**

at Blackheath Market

Monday 21st Dec	9.00am - 5.00pm	Saturday 26th Dec	Closed
Tuesday 22nd Dec	9.00am - 5.00pm	Monday 28th Dec	Closed
Wednesday 23rd Dec	9.00am - 5.00pm	Friday 1st Jan	Closed
Thursday 24th Dec	9.00am - 3.30pm	Normal opening times resume on Saturday 2nd January	
Christmas Day	Closed		

**All enquiries to Oliver Watchorn 07850 742961**  
[www.blackheath-market.co.uk](http://www.blackheath-market.co.uk)

*Everything But The Kitchen Sink!*

facebook



## CYPRESS NURSERY

**CHRISTMAS TREES AVAILABLE NOW:**

Lovely non-shedding Nordmann fir - all sizes on blocks and 3-4 ft rooted  
Traditional Norway Spruce up to 15 ft on blocks or rooted  
Blue Spruce 3-4 ft rooted  
Can be delivered for a small fee if required

**WE ARE JUST STARTING TO MAKE ON SITE:**

- \* Holly Balls \* Wreaths \* Door Rings \* Oasis Pans

Call in now and order yours, or phone/email, any design and colour co-ordinated, if required

Yew Tree Lane (off Powke Lane) Blackheath  
Phone: 0121 559 1495

**OPENING TIMES 7 DAYS A WEEK 9 - 5.15**

Due to being open 7 days - Closed 1 - 2 for lunch  
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED  
[www.cypressnursery.net](http://www.cypressnursery.net) [info@cypressnursery.net](mailto:info@cypressnursery.net)

## THE WASHER CENTRE

**Repairs, Spares, Sales**

All major brands repaired, also built in appliances, electric cookers, dishwashers, washing machines etc.

**Brand new, reconditioned appliances available**

Showroom open 9 am-5 pm Mon-Sat  
60 High Street, Blackheath, B65 0EH  
0121 561 3785

• WHIRLPOOL • ZANUSSI • HOVER • DYSON

## PETS PANTRY

### Pigeon Supplies

Suppliers of:

- Bucktons
- Country Wide
- Vanrobaeys
- Versele-Laga
- Mariman • Gem

All brands available  
"Just ask and we get it!"

**OPENING HOURS:** Friday 1 pm-5 pm  
Saturday 9 am-1 pm • Sundays 10 am-1 pm

6 Halesowen Street, Rowley Regis B65 0HG  
Call: 0121 561 5470  
Email: [petspantrygarden@btconnect.com](mailto:petspantrygarden@btconnect.com)  
[www.petspantrygarden.co.uk](http://www.petspantrygarden.co.uk)





# BLACKHEATH HIGH ST. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON!

**Saturday 21st November**

**3pm - 7pm Blackheath Town Centre**  
**Light Switch On at 6pm by Mayor of Sandwell**

Festive Market - Charity Stalls - Fun Fair  
Amazing Street Acts - Free Entertainment on Stage

**Road closure in operation from 12 noon - 8pm**

## ISTANBUL TURKISH RESTAURANT



**Bookings now being  
taken for Christmas**

*Christmas party bookings*  
Open lunchtimes and evenings  
Mon - Thurs 12 noon - 11pm  
Fri - Sat 12 noon - 12 midnight  
Sun 2pm - 11pm  
Closed Christmas Day  
Open Boxing Day 5pm - Late

Istanbul restaurant has  
a charcoal grill that  
provides freshly grilled  
meat and fish dishes



Friday and Saturday  
Evenings  
**Belly Dancers**

185 High Street, Rowley Regis, B65 0DU

**Tel: 0121 6799 721**

## Inspirations

Wishing all  
our Customers  
a Merry  
Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year

**Christmas Opening**

Mon 21st 9 - 12 noon

Tues 22nd 9 - 6pm

Wed 23rd 9 - 6pm

Thurs 24th 8 - 2pm

Reopens 30th December

Appointments necessary

108 High Street, Rowley Regis  
**Tel: 0121 559 7496**

## Grewel Newsagents and Off Licence

**Newsagents & Convenience Store**

Open 7am - 9.30pm

*For all your general grocery needs*  
*Newspapers available for local delivery*

**For all your Wines, Spirits and Beers**

**Christmas Specials**

Off Licence open 8am - 11pm

Open everyday except Christmas Day



55-56 High Street, Rowley Regis B65 0EH  
Opposite the Knights Quest pub

## S & N Hodgkins (Jewellers)

**ON SITE WORKSHOPS FOR**  
*clock, watch and jewellery repairs*



- ✓ Watches
- ✓ Necklaces
- ✓ Bracelets
- ✓ Clocks
- ✓ Earrings
- ✓ Watch Batteries
- ✓ Engraving and Straps
- ✓ Rings
- ✓ Est. 1969

*One Stop Shop For  
All Gift Ideas...*

**151 HIGH STREET, BLACKHEATH B65 0EA**  
**(NEXT TO THE NEW LIBRARY)**

**TELEPHONE: 0121 559 7156**

## IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR!!

- ✿ 20kg Smokeless Coal **£10**
- ✿ 20kg House Coal only **£7**
- ✿ 10kg Hotmax Fuel Logs **£5.99** a bag or **£10** for 2 bags
- ✿ Season Logs **£4.50** Large Net
- ✿ Kiln Dried Logs **£5.75** Large Net
- ✿ Christmas Trees from 3ft-30ft Now in Stock

**DISPLAY SHEDS AND GREENHOUSES ON SITE**



To see our video of offers and our video tutorials.

Green Leevs Garden Centre 52-53 Halesowen Street,  
Rowley Regis, B65 0HF OPPOSITE SAINSBURYS BLACKHEATH  
Open 7 days a week 9am-5pm Sunday 10am-2pm Tel: 0121 561 1011



## LOCAL MUSIC SHOP

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

REPAIRS LESSONS

1000'S OF MUSIC BOOKS

WE BUY AND SELL GUITARS

**Tel: 0121 439 9662**

Rockstarguitar.co.uk

28 Oldbury Road, Blackheath B65 0JN  
(by Wilko's Carpark)

www.rockstarguitar.co.uk





Are you a member of a local voluntary group?

Do you have a good news story?

Do you need to promote an event for a charity or a local good cause?

The Halesowen Chronicle needs local news stories for your local paper for you the local reader.

Please call NICKY COPE on  
**01902 319 573**

# Chvrches draw faithful on a big night of gigs

SCOTTISH synth-pop sensations Chvrches comes to Birmingham on Wednesday, November 25, as part of an eight-date UK tour.

Fronted by former journalist Lauren Mayberry, the Glaswegian trio who first made a stir in 2012 with Lies and The Mother We Share, also feature Iain Cook and Martin Doherty.

They released debut album The Bones of What You Believe in 2013 and in September this year released second album Every Open Eye.

That Wednesday will be a busy gig evening in the second city with singer and songwriter James Morrison playing a sold out concert at the Birmingham Institute featuring songs from his newly released fourth album Higher Than Here.

Meanwhile, rock fans will be heading for Digbeth venue The Rainbow where Mini Mansions will be performing songs from their acclaimed debut album The Great Pretenders. The Los Angeles trio include Queens Of The Stone Age bass player Michael Shuman and the gig coincides with the release of new single Double Visions.

Expect a blizzard of fierce noise when Yak play the Sunflower Lounge in Birmingham tonight (Thu) or go to Stourbridge River Rooms for young London blues rockers Hidden Charms.

Stadium rockers Imagine Dragons take their Smoke + Mirrors tour to the Barclaycard Arena tomorrow.

Wolverhampton Civic Hall hosts its own monsters of rock with a sold out show by Marilyn Manson on Saturday and West Midlands metal legends Judas Priest on Thursday, November 26, with Michael Schenker Group.

Manchester's dance-rock pioneers New Order, back with new album Music Complete, have sold out the Civic Hall on Tuesday, as have young punk duo Slaves on Wednesday.



Glaswegian trio Chvrches recently released their second album Every Open Eye

American country rock rebel Brantley Gilbert, a major star stateside, is in concert at the O2 Institute in Digbeth tonight (Thu). There's more country at the same venue on Saturday with Nashville's Striking Matches, duo Justin Davis and Sarah Zimmermann.

Dub step and electronic dance outfit Nero are at the O2 Institute tomorrow night, as are London grime stars Krypt and Konan in another room.

## Songwriter

Nottingham singer-songwriter Saint Raymond, AKA 20-year-old Callum Burrows, is at the O2 Institute on Saturday with support from Louis Berry.

It's heading for a sell out at the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath tonight for the gig by Albert Hammond Jr, of The Strokes, playing songs from his third solo album Momentary Masters. Also that night ain't the other upstairs room will be Irish stars Keywest. The Dublin band have scored five no1 sin-

gles in their homeland and two hit albums. American folk-rockers Elvis Perkins, son of Psycho actor Anthony Perkins, is at the Hare and Hounds on Sunday night.

Other gigs at the venue including darkly romantic electronic rock from Ten Fe on Monday, New York indie rock duo Molly Hamilton and Robert Earl Thomas — known as Widow-speak — on Monday. Obaro Ejimiwe, better known as Ghostpoet, brings his atmospheric blend of jazz, rap and trip-hop to the Hare and Hounds on Tuesday, as heard on acclaimed album Shedding Skin, and psychedelic outfit Landshapes play on Wednesday.

Molotov Jukebox, fronted by Game of Thrones and Harry Potter actress Natalia Tena, bring t'good time Balkan-gypsy rock to The Rainbow on Thursday, November 26. This Tuesday the Rainbow hosts urban folk singer Beans On Toast, whose album Rolling Up The Hill is out next month.

Express & Star

VIRTUAL

# MOTORSHOW

REVIEW YOUR NEW CAR BY VIDEO BEFORE YOU TEST DRIVE!

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE  
LATEST MANUFACTURER  
& DEALER OFFERS  
BY VISITING  
OUR SHOW...



DRIVING EXPERIENCE - COST OF OWNERSHIP - DESIGN & BUILD - RANGE

> VIDEO REVIEWS > DEALERSHIP INFORMATION



expressandstar.com/drivetime



# Rules over taxi tints are proving costly for cabbies

## Folk-blues singer to launch new album



Singer-songwriter Sunjay Brayne will be officially launching new album *Black and Blues* in Stourbridge

A FOLK and blues singer will launch his new album on home turf with a gig in Stourbridge tomorrow night (Fri). Sunjay Brayne, from Brierley Hill, is preparing to launch his new LP *Black and Blues* at the end of this month.

To celebrate he will be returning to play at popular pub venue Katie Fitzgerald's, in Enville Road, Wollaston, on November 20.

The performer, who was nominated to The BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Awards in 2012, has been on tour this summer.

He was a music student at Kidderminster College and has headlined festivals across the country including the Wessex Folk Festival.

But he is returning to familiar ground at the venue which plays host to Stourbridge Folk Club.

Doors open at 8pm. Tickets cost £8.80 including booking fee. Visit the website [www.ents24.com/stourbridge-events/katie-fitzgeralds/sunjay/4408405](http://www.ents24.com/stourbridge-events/katie-fitzgeralds/sunjay/4408405) or call (01384) 374410 to book.

## Parking charge dubbed a tax on using park

COUNCIL bosses have been accused of taxing people for going to the park after a decision to introduce car parking charges at Sandwell Valley got a public backlash.

Sandwell Council is introducing charges at the country park for the first time and is now facing calls to reverse its decision.

Around 80 people have signed a petition over the last week launched by a campaign group which is calling for the new charges to be scrapped.

Parking has always been free at the country park but visitors will now find themselves paying from 40p for an hour to £2 if they stay for more than four hours.

Around 200,000 cars park at the site each year.

Council chiefs said the change was necessary to ensure funds could be generated for the upkeep of the site and new attractions including a paintball activity centre and outdoor cinema. Cash would otherwise have to be used from existing budgets that are already stretched due to Government cuts.

The move is expected to make £200,000 a year but the council insists the money will be used only for the park's maintenance.

Public pressure led to plans for parking charges at the country park to be scrapped last year.

TAXI drivers across Dudley say they are being forced to shell out hundreds of pounds to replace factory-fitted windows on their vehicles because they do not meet council regulations.

There is a rule that at least 40 per cent of light must be able to travel through back windows of Hackney carriages and private hire taxis in order to be granted a licence by Dudley Council.

But drivers say they are being unfairly treated as new vehicles are increasingly being made with tinted windows that do not meet those standards.

Council bosses have set the 40 per cent limit with safety in mind and as part of its efforts to ensure child sexual exploitation does not take place in the borough.

Dudley are among authorities that has begun training drivers about how to spot the signs of exploitation.

By Richard Guttridge

But drivers insist the rules are too harsh and that many of the windows in the taxis that would not reach the council's standard can actually be seen through.

Some have already paid to have windows replaced to comply with the standards, while others have resorted to buying older vehicles that come within the limit.

### Import

Shaz Saleem, chairman of the Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association, said: "A growing number of vehicles are coming with a manufactured tint. If they are coming with it, it is within the law and Dudley Council needs to realise it is not above the law."

"This is affecting a lot of drivers across Dudley. I know one driver who had to spend nearly £1,000 because he had to import windows from Germany because Mercedes didn't do them here."

Melvyn Gill, from Sedgley, who drives for SOS Travel, has been unable to use his Ford Mondeo, which he paid £9,500 for, as it does not meet the standards.

He said: "It is on the drive. I am just driving it for my own use but not as a taxi. I have invested nearly £10,000 in a new car and I want to be able to use it to give passengers an improved ride."

"I don't know where I am going to go from here, it's going to put me out of business. It's unfair and unjust."

Councillor Richard Body, chairman of the taxi committee, said the situation would be reviewed.

"We need to look at this. Windows can't be obscured because there is an issue around child sexual exploitation," he said.

"But if there are cars with tints and they are the basic model and other local authorities are ok with it, we need to look at it."

"I need a report with evidence and I need to speak to my officers before any decisions are made."

## MP backing booklet on health issue

HALESOWEN and Rowley Regis MP James Morris has launched a booklet for MPs and their staff to help constituents who are living with mental health issues.

Mind, Rethink Mental Illness, and the Royal College of Psychiatrists have produced a booklet which sets out practical ways for MPs and their staff to support constituents with mental health problems. It includes tips on handling difficult emails or phone calls.

It has been backed by Mr Morris as part of his role as Chairman of the All Party Group for mental health.

Mr Morris said: "It is important for MP's and their staff to understand the problems that many people face, and this guide offers to give advice and practical tips."

"It is not our job to diagnose a mental health problem, this is for trained professionals. However, developing understanding and confidence to talk to constituents about how best we can support them will lead to a more meaningful interaction between constituents, MPs and staffers."

Advertisement

## PUBLIC NOTICE

## MASSIVE SHOWROOM CLEARANCE SALE

Suites - Beds - Mattresses - Sofas

All reduced to a fraction of their normal price

NO REASONABLE OFFER REFUSED

UP TO £1,000 PART EXCHANGE FOR YOUR OLD SUITE

SOFAS AND CHAIRS MADE TO ORDER, ANY SIZE

FREE REMOVAL OF YOUR OLD BED

LARGE SELECTION OF FABRIC AND LEATHER SUITES



3 Seater Sofa with 2 Recliner Actions *from* **£395**



Grosvenor Settee *Now Only* **£395**  
(After p/x)



Odd Bases & Mattresses to Clear from **£69**

Double Divans *from* **£195**



Your chair, designed to fit you  
Matching sofas available  
1000 fabrics, 100 leathers to choose from

**Dreamworld**  
furniture

Three Piece Suites, Chairs, Beds, Carpets, Dining and Bedroom Furniture

8 Stallings Lane, Kingswinford DY6 7HU

Tel: 01384 295660

OPEN: MON-SAT 10AM - 5PM | SUN 10.30AM - 4.30PM

LARGE FREE  
CAR PARK







There was lots of fun to be had on the traditional merry-go-round



Proper German bratwurst hotdogs were the order of the day for these visitors



Bargain hunters celebrate the return of the German market in Birmingham



From left, Jennifer Edwards, Ellen pope, Robin Wild and Leah Gallagher



Bustling crowds flooding the streets of the second city at the event

# Wunderbar in Brum

IT provided a big German willkommen as the annual Frankfurt Market arrived in the West Midlands.

Whether its huge bratwurst sausages, colourful fairground rides or even a singing moose – the market has become a popular Midland Christmas fixture and is set to bring millions of visitors to the region.

Scores of market stalls opened for business in Birmingham last Thursday to herald the countdown to Christmas in the city centre for a six-week run up until December 22.

Officials vowed this year's event would be a

success despite concerns over disruption caused by major works at Paradise Circus.

It is believed more than 5.5 million visitors will come into the city during its run alongside other festive city centre events.

An ice rink has also returned to Centenary Square alongside the famous big wheel next to the Library of Birmingham giving visitors spectacular views.

A craft market is also part of the event – but will be in Centenary Square only due to Chamberlain Square being closed because of the Paradise redevelopment work.

Pedestrian access to Centenary Square from

Victoria Square will be via Fletchers Walk.

Birmingham Christmas markets will be open from 10am to 9pm each day, offering visitors the chance to sample an array of delicacies and drinks.

The Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Councillor Raymond Hassall, officially opened the German market.

He said: "It is a tremendous honour to be able to officially welcome the Christmas Markets back to Birmingham.

"This is one of the most anticipated events in Birmingham's calendar, drawing millions of visitors to our city each year."



Everyone was getting into the Christmas spirit, even four-legged friends

## Express & Star



DO YOU NEED HELP  
TO CLIMB THAT  
CAREER LADDER?

REGISTER YOUR CV AND FIND YOUR PERFECT JOB

REGISTER YOUR CV TODAY

[JOBS.EXPRESSANDSTAR.COM](http://JOBS.EXPRESSANDSTAR.COM)

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER@RECRUITMENTSTAR



# fast the ticket

## A cut above

Sweeney Todd  
opera – Page 23



**Bill Bailey**

See Page 23

**NATIVE MONSTER**  
Entertainment Unleashed

For full listings see **Express & Star** every Friday

English and Indian food.  
Eat in or take out.



Function Room Available  
For All Occasions.

**THREE DIAMONDS**  
BAR AND GRILL

sky SPORTS BT Sport

1 Horner Way, Rowley Regis B65 0JQ  
Tel: 0121 559 6040

**ENJOY A  
FREE PINT**

WITH ORDERS £12 OR MORE.  
(IN OUR KITCHEN)

Present this coupon to redeem.  
FAMILIES WELCOME.



# WARLEY MALE CHOIR

Present

## MEN IN CONCERT 2015

CORNBOW HALL, HALESOWEN B63 3AT  
SATURDAY 21st NOVEMBER 7.00pm  
with Special Guests  
SHIFNAL MALE VOICE CHOIR  
and introducing  
"WHICH WAY"

Three local lads, close harmony in a modern style

**Tickets £8.00**

Available from Ron Sweetland  
Tel: 0121 552 4113 or on the door  
WWW.WARLEYMALECHOIR.CO.UK

# NATIONAL GLASS FAIR

## SUNDAY 22 NOV

10.30am to 4.00pm  
NATIONAL MOTORCYCLE MUSEUM  
Nr. B'ham NEC  
W. MIDLANDS B92 0EJ

Tel: 07867 762872

[nationalglassfair.com](http://nationalglassfair.com)

# CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR LATE DEALS!

## ISLE OF WIGHT

MEDEHAMSTEDE HOTEL, SHANKLIN

Great value festive breaks to this friendly hotel situated in attractive gardens a short stroll from the town centre and Old Village. Enjoy festive entertainment plus a scenic Round the Island Coach excursion

**CHRISTMAS**  
4 nights dinner, bed & breakfast plus Christmas Lunch  
WED 23 DEC £199.95

**YULETIDE**  
3 nights dinner, bed & breakfast  
SUN 27 DEC £119.95

**NEW YEAR**  
3 nights dinner, bed & breakfast  
WED 30 DEC £179.95

Return coach travel from throughout the West Midlands

**Special Offer**  
Add Yuletide to either Christmas or New Year for only £99.95  
SAVE £40 PER COUPLE!

**LOTS MORE CHRISTMAS/YULETIDE/NEW YEAR BREAKS FROM £99.95 - CALL FOR BROCHURE**

**Travelstyle** 0844 682 2618  
or visit [travelstyletours.co.uk](http://travelstyletours.co.uk)

# HALESOWEN STREET MARKET

## CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON

This Saturday 21st November

Come and join us at the Christmas light switch on, join in the spirit and grab yourselves few christmas present treasures

HALESOWEN TOWN CENTRE

CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON 07889 975701

## Guys & Dolls




Tues - Dec 5  
New Alexandra, B'ham

A cast and orchestra of over 40 is led by Olivier Award-winning actress Sophie Thompson as the long-suffering Miss Adelaide and Olivier Award-winning actor David Haig.

Visit [www.atgtickets.com](http://www.atgtickets.com)

## Chvrches




Wednesday, 7pm  
02 Academy, B'ham

The Brit Award nominees are on tour in support of their second album Every Open Eye, the follow up to their 2013 breakthrough The Bones of What You Believe.

Visit [www.academymusicgroup.com](http://www.academymusicgroup.com)

## Mini Mansions




Wednesday, 7pm  
Rainbow, B'ham

Punk is no stranger to Mini Mansions, but neither is melody. While they all played in various DIY bands they also share an affinity for The Zombies, Gorillaz and Devo.

Visit [www.theraibowvenues.co.uk](http://www.theraibowvenues.co.uk)

## A Murder Is Announced



Tuesday - Nov 28  
Grand Theatre, W'ton

This lavish new production of an Agatha Christie's classic stars Judy Cornwell as the elderly sleuth Miss Marple. The cast also feature a host of top actors.

Visit [www.grandtheatre.co.uk](http://www.grandtheatre.co.uk)

## POP & ROCK

**Rock And Roll Paradise**  
Sun at 7.30pm, £18 - £23.90  
Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

**The Sex Pistols Experience: Sex Pistols Tribute**  
Fri at 7.30pm, £12 - £14  
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

**Mad Dog Mcreea**  
Thu at 7.30pm, £12 - £14  
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

**Virgil And The Accelerators**  
Wed at 7.30pm - 11pm, £12.50 - £14  
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. 01902 401211

**Buzzcocks**  
Fri at 7pm, £22  
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

**Apocalyptica**  
Tue at 7pm, £16.50  
Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

**Marilyn Manson - SOLD OUT**  
Sat at 7pm, £29.50  
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

**Robbie Williams tribute**  
Fri at 7.30pm, £6/8  
Arena Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 8QR. Call 0844 884 2920

**Elvis by Memphis Mike**  
Sat at 7.30pm, £6/8  
Arena Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 8QR. Call 0844 884 2920

**Chas And Dave**  
Fri at 7pm, £25 - £28  
Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

**Pond Floyd: Pink Floyd Tribute**  
Sun at 12pm, £8 - £10  
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

**Pale + Support**  
Fri at 10pm, £3-5  
The Grapes, Stafford ST16 2HZ. Call 07989 174631

**James Morrison**  
Wed at 7pm, £26.50  
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

**Tankus The Henge**  
Sat - Sun at 8pm - 1am, £6  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster, DY10 1EW. Call 01562 861870

**Cliff & The Shadz**  
Mon at 7.30pm, £10 - £12  
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

**Imagine Dragons**  
Fri at 7.30pm, £30  
Barclaycard Arena, B1 2AA. Call 0121 780 4141

**New Order - SOLD OUT**  
Tue at 7pm, £37.50  
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

**Backyard Babies**  
Sun at 7pm, £16  
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

**The Wailers**  
Fri at 6pm, £19.50  
02 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

**Nickelback: No Fixed Address**  
Sat at 6.30pm, £38.50  
Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

**Bon Giovi**  
Sat at 7.30pm, £12 - £13  
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. 01902 401211

**Judas Priest**  
Thu at 7pm, £38.50  
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

**Modestep**  
Thu at 7pm, £14  
02 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

**Slaves - SOLD OUT**  
Wed at 7pm, £13.50  
Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

**Abbanania: Tribute To Abba**  
Fri at 7.30pm, £19.50  
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Sat at 7.30pm, £19.50  
Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

**Sack Sabbath: Black Sabbath Tribute And Mentallica: Metallica Tribute**  
Sat at 7pm, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

**Four Star Mary**  
Thu at 7pm, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

**Amped**  
Wed at 7.30pm, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

**Definitely Might Be And Adored: Oasis And The Stone Roses Tribute**  
Fri at 7.30pm, £8  
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. 01384 397177

**Brit Floyd**  
Sun at 7.30pm, £29.50  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

**Akala**  
Thu at 7.30pm, £20  
Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN. Call 01902 572090

**Mini Mansions**  
Wed at 7.30pm, £10  
The Rainbow, Birmingham, B12 0LD. Call 0121 753 1818

**Rhino And The Ranters**  
Sat at 12am, £6 - £7  
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

**Chvrches**  
Wed at 7pm, £17.50  
02 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

**Stillmarillion: Marillion Tribute**  
Sun at 8.45pm, £10 - £12  
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

**Ricky Ross**  
Sun at 8pm, £24.50  
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

## FOLK & ACOUSTIC

**Bellowhead: The Farewell Tour**  
Wed at 7pm, £19.50 - £24.50  
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

**Lau**  
Sun at 7pm - 11pm, £17.50  
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

**Calan**  
Sat at 7.30pm, £12.50  
Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN. Call 01902 572090

**The Neon Collective**  
Tue at 8.30pm, £5  
Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN. Call 01902 572090

**Steeleye Span**  
Thu at 7.30pm, £19.50 - £22.50  
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE. Call 01543 578762

**Celtic Roots Night**  
Fri at 7.30pm, £8  
St George's Hall, Bewdley Call 01299 40011

**Sunjay**  
Fri at 8pm, £8  
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

## JAZZ & BLUES

**Room 4 The Blues - Session**  
Fri, 9pm  
Claregate Pub, Tettenhall, WV6 9ED. Call 01902 754761

**Stonepunch**  
Sun at 9pm  
The Grapes, Stafford, ST16 2HZ. Call 07989 174631

**Jazz Club 90 - Bev Pegg's Railroad Skiffle Trio**  
Sun at 1pm, £5  
Albrighton Sports and Social Club, WV7 3QT. Call 07947 668750

## CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

**The Big Band At Christmas**  
Thu at 7.30pm, Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

**Rising Stars - Harriet Krijgh**  
Mon at 6pm - 9pm, £10  
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

**Lee Mead: Some Enchanted Christmas Evening**  
Sat at 7.30pm, Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

**Brass Minifest**  
Mon, times vary, £4  
Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, B3 3HG. Call 0121 331 5901

## THEATRE

**Welsh National Opera: Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber Of Fleet Street**  
Fri at 7.15pm, Sat at 7.15pm, £11.50 - £109.50  
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

**Beryl**  
Tue at 7pm, Wed at 7.45pm, Thu at 2.45pm, 7.45pm, £17 - £20  
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

**Contained**  
Fri at 7.30pm, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

**The Lion The Witch And The Wardrobe**  
Mon at 10.15am, Tue at 10.15am, Wed at 2.30pm, 7pm, Thu at 2.30pm, 7pm, £7.50 - £35  
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

**Calamity Jane: Redditch Operatic Society**  
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

**Guys And Dolls**  
Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £15 - £47.50  
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

**Peppa Pig's Surprise**  
Sat at 10am, 1pm, 4pm, Sun at 10am, 1pm, 4pm, £13.50 - £22.90  
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

**Treasure Island**  
Fri at 10.15am, 1.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7pm, Sun at 1pm, 5pm, Tue at 2.30pm, 7pm, Wed at 10.15am, 1.30pm, Thu at 10.15am, 1.30pm, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DY. Call 0121 605 5116

**Last Night A DJ Saved My Life**  
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £17 - £54.14  
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

**Elvis That's The Way It Was**  
Fri at 7.30pm, £19.50  
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

**A Murder Is Announced**  
Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £15.50 - £26  
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

## COMEDY

**Dave Gorman: Gets Straight To The Point (The PowerPoint)**  
Thu at 8pm, £24  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

**One Man Breaking Bad: The Unauthorised Parody**  
Wed at 7.30pm, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

## TALKS

**Sally Morgan: Psychic Sally On The Road**  
Thu at 7.30pm, £23.50 - £27.90  
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

**An Evening With Pam Ayres**  
Sun at 5pm, £25  
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

## OTHER EVENTS

**MCM Birmingham Comic Con**  
Sat, Sun  
The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star



# Soraya is razor sharp as Johanna

**IN the world of musical theatre, there are few singers as exciting as Soraya Mafi.**

In 2014, she won the Maggie Teyte Prize, and this year took second in the Kathleen Ferrier Awards and was the winner in the 2015 Royal Overseas League. Make no mistake, Mafi is a major new talent.

The former shop assistant from Bury graduated from the Royal College of Music, and can now be seen as the tragic Johanna when Welsh National Opera bring Stephen Sondheim's Sweeney Todd to Birmingham Hippodrome from tonight (Thu) to Saturday.

Mafi's credits have included roles in Peter Grimes, Il re pastore, Pirates of Penzance, The Mikado and Dido and Aeneas (for BBC Radio 3), not to mention the title role Arianna in Creta at the London Handel Festival plus roles in WNO's productions of I Puritani and Orlando earlier this week.

She stars alongside baritone David Arnspurger as Sweeney Todd and Scottish soprano Janis Kelly as Mrs Lovett in the gory Victorian story updated to the 1970s.

"It's a wonderful story," she says. "Sweeney Todd has come back from being abroad, having been banished, and he is seeking revenge on Judge Turpin. When he returns, he discovers that his daughter, Johanna, who I play, is being held captive."

"She's a teenage girl, aged 16 or 17. She's been stuck in her bedroom reading for years and questions whether her existence is normal. She's struggling with life and asking how she can cope with it. She ends up at an asylum



Soraya Mafi, as Johanna, and George Newton-Fitzgerald, as Jonas Fogg, in a hard-hitting scene from Welsh National Opera's Sweeney Todd

and shoots the guy who runs it. It is all action, from beginning to end."

Mafi has an operatic background but has enjoyed the switch to musical theatre. "I've faced bigger challenges than this, vocally-speaking. But in terms of energy levels, it's up there. Johanna is always on the edge."

"It's very different to what I'm used to. In general, as an opera singer, you are primarily thinking about the sound that you are creating. But with musical theatre, it has to come from the emotion of the story. You have to not be afraid to express sorrow or happiness."



**'Things don't pan out the way you want them to'**

## Bill's not in limbo now

WHEN asked to describe his new show, Limboland, which plays Wolverhampton's Civic Hall tonight (Thu), Bill Bailey says: "It's about when things don't pan out the way you want them to. That's a rich seam comedically, the gap between how we imagine our lives to be and how they really are."

The show has proved a great hit, wowing audiences in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Hong Kong and across the UK, with tonight's show the second consecutive performance in Wolverhampton.

"It's a bit different to previous shows in as much as it's more focused on personal accounts which is quite daunting at first," he said. "I do a lot of political stuff and tell stories about my family holidays that go wrong, and travels in the Arctic and jungle."

He gives an example: "I had this desire to take my whole family to see the Northern Lights, so I persuaded them all to come to Norway. I had a vision of how it was going to be, a transcendent experience, shushing beautifully through the snow then all standing in a wood surrounded by Sami tribesmen looking at the Northern Lights overhead."

"Instead we were on a white knuckle ride in the dark on a dogsled pulled by baying hounds and it was very scary. People were screaming. My wife's father fell off the back of the sled and I thought he was a goner. It was January, minus 22 and bitterly cold."

"And it was all my idea. All the time I was thinking 'why didn't we just watch a documentary about the Northern Lights?' At the same time, a little bit of you is thinking, if everyone survives, this is going in the show."

### Rock 'n' roll and graphs with laughs

THERE is a varied array of one-nighters on offer this weekend.

Chas N Dave bring their Rockney songs to the Wulfrun Hall tomorrow (Fri), the same night Peter Storm performs as Elvis in That's The Way It Was next door at the Civic. Then the Wulfrun hosts Abbanania on Saturday. Celtic Woman at the Symphony Hall on Saturday features some of Ireland's finest singers and musicians, while at Birmingham Town Hall that night Festival of the Spoken Nerd see the funny side of science in new show Just for Graphs.

The music of the 1950s is celebrated in Rock N Roll Paradise at the Wulfrun on Sunday.

### Miss Marple has date with murder

JUDY Cornwell, best known as Daisy in classic sitcom Keeping Up Appearances, is putting on the tweeds and hat as Agatha Christie's elderly spinster sleuth Miss Marple. She follows in the sensibly-shoed steps of Joan Hickson, Margaret Rutherford, Angela Lansbury and Geraldine McEwan.

Miss Marple features in A Murder Is Announced, investigating when residents of Chipping Cleghorn are astonished to see an advert for a forthcoming murder in their newspaper, including time and place. The vintage mystery is at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday (28th).

### Neverland and Narnia on stage

THE festive season is getting under way at the region's theatres with Birmingham Rep's main house being turned into Narnia and a new version of Peter Pan flying into Stratford.

The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe, by CS Lewis and dramatised by Adrian Mitchell, is on from tomorrow (Fri) until January 16 at Birmingham Repertory Theatre.

The Royal Shakespeare Company's gently feminist take on JM Barrie's Neverland classic, Wendy & Peter Pan by Ella Hickson, returned this week at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and continues throughout December and January.

**Great Bar...Great Food...Great Entertainment...**

**Knights Quest**

**THURSDAY 19/11/2015**  
**THURSDAY NIGHT KARAOKE SHOW**  
**FRIDAY 20/11/2015**  
**CARLA FOLLOWED BY SHANES DISCO**  
**SATURDAY 21/11/2015**  
**A.K.A. SKA FACE**  
**SUNDAY 22/11/2015**  
**SUNDAY NIGHT IS KARAOKE PARTY NIGHT !!!**  
**MONDAY 23/11/2015**  
**SHANE'S QUIZ & KARAOKE NIGHT !!!**  
**TUESDAY 24/11/2015**  
**IT'S TUESDAY...ITS KARAOKE WITH PREDATOR**  
**WEDNESDAY 25/11/2015**  
**WEDNESDAY NIGHT WITH YANA !**  
**THURSDAY 26/11/2015**  
**STARMAKERS KARAOKE SHOW**  
**FRIDAY 27/11/2015**  
**SAMMY JO PLUS SHANES DISCO**

**DAILY CARVERY**  
**only £3.45**

We also serve  
**GREAT STEAK & GRILL DEALS**

**SUNDAY CARVERY**  
**only £4.95**

**12 noon-5 pm**

**MON-THURS : 12.00-2.30PM, 6-8PM | FRI-SAT 12.00-2.30PM**

**"It's Great Down the Pub!"**

**High Street, Blackheath**  
**Tel: 0121 561 5599**  
**Find us at [www.theknightsquest.co.uk](http://www.theknightsquest.co.uk)**

**CHRISTMAS FAYRE BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN**

**DRESS CODE... Dress to Impress!**

**We serve until 1am on Sundays, Midnight Monday-Wednesday, 1am Thursday, 2am Friday & Saturday DOORS CLOSE 11.00pm Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun**

**Reds**  
**QUINTON**

**43A WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, QUINTON**  
**0121 429 1602**  
**NEXT TO THE AMBER TAVERN**  
**OPEN TILL LATE**

**WHATS ON GUIDE...**

**Reds QUINTON**  
**EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY**  
**• DJ •**  
**FROM 9PM**  
**IN OUR ZU BAR**

**Reds QUINTON**  
**SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER**  
**LOCAL ROCK BAND 'LEGEND'**

**Reds QUINTON**  
**THIS SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER**  
**FEMALE SINGER 'FRANKIE SWOFFER' FROM 9PM**

**Reds QUINTON**  
**EVERY SUNDAY**  
**LIVE IRISH MUSIC 4PM - 8PM**  
**THIS SUNDAY**  
**IRISH DUO - PUB CRAWL**  
**GUINNESS £2.50 A PINT**

**FREE Wi-Fi**

**• FREE JUKEBOX**  
**• 3 TABLE POOL ROOM**  
**• FREE FUNCTION ROOM**  
**• NO LONGER A MEMBERS CLUB**

**SHOWN LIVE HERE sky SPORTS**

**OPENING TIMES: MON TO THUR 4PM - 12PM FRI TO SUN 12 NOON - LATE**

**Map:**  
 McDonalds Chiquito  
 A4123 < To Oldbury  
 HAGLEY ROAD WEST  
 To B'ham  
 W'TON ROAD S  
 WE ARE HERE  
 To Harborne >  
 To Halesowen



# Veal meat again, I trust

Seeking comfort food on a chilly night? **LEIGH SANDERS** checks out Bellagio Ristorante Italiano in West Bromwich

**THROUGHOUT** history, the 'gate' scandals have gripped the world with their memorable breaches of normal accepted behaviour.

While not exactly matching Watergate for its shock value, for my pal and I no meal will be the same pass without mention of... Vealgate.

It was a cold, dark evening when we ventured to Bellagio, tucked away in a corner of West Bromwich, so hearty, warm food was definitely called for.

Good things had been said about the restaurant. Although we had never been before, Italian places always give big portions, right?

Upon arrival, it ticked a lot of boxes. As there is also a hotel on-site the parking is ample; you should be able to find a space here no matter what day you visit.

On entering the restaurant, the positivity continues. Inside it is beautifully decorated with a modern feel and a touch of class.

## Courteous

A few of the light fittings seem an odd choice, but the warm atmosphere is welcoming – especially when the weather outside is grim.

The staff are well-dressed, polite and courteous and add little touches such as taking your coats and offering menu recommendations.

We took a little while to decide on our food as the menu is vast but they didn't hurry or pester and left us to it.

The menu is pretty fish-heavy and offers up some interesting options. One of these grabbed my friend's attention straight away. Sounding like a spell straight out of Harry Potter's World, she opted for avocado diverso – the superfood fruit served with crab meat, Marie Rose sauce, smoked trout, horseradish and



Perfect for a winter's evening – the Bellagio was our man's first choice for comforting food

sun-blushed tomatoes. We wondered if you shouted the 'avocado diverso' at the waiter he may turn into some sort of amphibian wearing a bow tie. But alas, he just greeted the request with one of those warm smiles and jotted our order down on his notepad as if we hadn't been the first buffoons to try such a stunt.

My friend found the dish a little flavourless, which was a shame. It was full of contrasting textures and certainly looked great, but she thought it a little bland and had expected more given its colourful name and description.

I chose the the prosciutto Caprese consisting of Parma ham, buffalo mozzarella in basil sauce, served with sun-dried tomatoes. The cool flavour, and indeed temperature, of the mozzarella pearls offset the salty tang of the ham. Although my enjoyment was dampened slightly by my friend's insistence that the

cheese looked like the nether-regions of a sheep, I thought it tasted great and they were the highlight of the dish.

Then came Vealgate. Having had a fish-based starter, my friend decided she wanted something different for her main.

Browsing the menu, the waiter and I tried to offer up helpful suggestions until something caught her eye.

"Veal is usually really nice," I said. "Why don't you try that?" The reply seemed confident enough: "Sure," she said.

So then we discussed why a lot of people don't really like veal because of what it is and where it comes from.

"What do you mean?" came the quizzical response. "Well, it is baby cow and not everyone likes that." Her jaw hit the table with such force I thought the sturdy furniture would

snap in two. "Baby cow? I thought veal was deer." Her face turned a shade of red that matched the decorative bottles of wine, as she sheepishly admitted she had been thinking of venison.

The saltimbocca alla Romana was described as veal scallops cooked in white wine and garnished with Parma ham and sage. When it arrived, we found out that it was literally just a plate of veal. A few leaves had been added for effect, but the dish was one dimensional. It tasted good though. The veal was tender and, as with my starter, the Parma ham added a salty backdrop to the dish. Luckily, we had added French fries on the side.

I had the penne pollo gamberetti – penne pasta topped with prawns and diced chicken in a cream sauce. It certainly was creamy; the thick texture of the sauce managed to retain

its heat and warm me up as I ate. The prawns were a little bland, but the chicken was beautiful and, overall the dish was really good.

We weren't quite done yet and I was determined to find something my friend would love before heading home. She's no fussy eater by any means, but had just made the wrong choices that evening.

Dessert was our final chance to put things right. Fortunately, the caramel budino hit the spot. It was packed with contrasting textures and flavours and was a 'happy conclusion' to her meal out. The white chocolate and fruit floret went down equally well on my side of the table.

Overall it would be harsh to mark Bellagio down based on the personal preferences of one diner as one of us had fully enjoyed the evening, the other had made bad choices.



The restaurant's interior is beautifully decorated

## THE MAYPOLE

93 BASSNAGE ROAD, HALESOWEN, B63 4HB TEL: 0121 585 9395

**MONDAY - FRIDAY**

**BITTER, MILD & CARLSBERG £1.99**

**CORKYS SHOTS 5 FOR £5!**

**BOTTLE OF HOUSE WINE £7.25**

**DOUBLE VODKA REDBULL £4.25**

**COCKTAIL MENU**

**BOTTLED CIDER 2 FOR £6!**

**WEEKLY GUEST ALES**

**SPIRIT DOUBLE UPS FOR £1.25**

**FUNCTION ROOM AVAILABLE**

**NOW TAKING BOOKINGS FOR CHRISTMAS PARTIES AND CHRISTMAS DAY**

*Eyes on our great offers*

*Back by Popular Demand*

**Eat For Less**

**2 for 1** (eat in only)

**on all main meals\***

a-la-carte menu also available 5pm - 10pm Sunday - Thursday Terms & conditions apply

**10% DISCOUNT** COLLECTION ONLY

*Function Room available for private parties and meetings*

**HOUSE PARTY PRESENTS**

**Live in the Lounge**

**Satying Alive The Bee Gees Tribute Band**

Performing classic songs like "How Deep Is Your Love" "Night Fever", "Tragedy" and "Massachusetts" in their faultless recreation of the distinctive vocals and harmony sounds Mecca Oldbury From 10.00pm on Saturday 28th November - £5 Ticket 0121 552 2882

The "Best Tribute to the Bee Gees" Staying Alive perform their No1 show dedicated to the Gibb Brothers

Facebook.com/MeccaBingo

Twitter.com/Meccabingo

Over 18's only. Terms and conditions apply

www.gambleaware.co.uk

**MECCA**

Club | Online | Mobile

**BUFFET STARTS AT 5PM SUNDAY**

**£8.95 PER PERSON** (£5.95 CHILDREN UNDER 10)

**EAT AS MUCH AS YOU CAN CHOOSE FROM OVER 25 DELICIOUS ITEMS**

Book On Line info@bangloungehalesowen.co.uk

Free Home Delivery within a 3 mile radius minimum 2 meals for delivery

**bangla LOUNGE RESTAURANT**

67-69 HIGH STREET, HALESOWEN, WEST MIDLANDS B63 3BC

info@bangloungehalesowen.co.uk Tel: 0121 585 7020 / 501 3816



CHOICE



**Strictly Come Dancing (BBC1, 6.50pm)**  
The pro-celebrity contest leaves the confines of the studio for its annual trip to Blackpool, where the eight remaining couples are given a chance to show of their latest routines in a programme broadcast live from the famous Tower Ballroom. As ever, Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present as judges Len Goodman, Darcey Bussell, Bruno Tonioli and Craig Revel Horwood deliver their verdicts on the various performances, and with the grand final now only one month away, the stakes will be higher than ever.

BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast.** 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Simply Nigella. (R) 12.00 BBC News: Weather. 12.10 Football Focus. 12.50 Saturday Sportsday. 1.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.00 Live Tennis: ATP World Tour Finals. The semi-finals at the O2 in London. 4.30 Final Score. 5.10 Now You See It. 5.40 BBC News. 5.50 Regional Programme.

**6.00 Pointless Celebrities.** Ed Baines, Paul Rankin, Tony Singh, Cyrus Todivalla, Jean-Christophe Novelli, Jo Pratt, Richard Burr and Frances Quinn compete in a "food and drink" themed edition of quiz.

**6.50 Strictly Come Dancing.** The pro-celebrity contest leaves the confines of the studio for its annual trip to Blackpool, where the eight remaining couples are given a chance to show of their latest routines in a programme broadcast live from the famous Tower Ballroom. As ever, Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present as judges Len Goodman, Darcey Bussell, Bruno Tonioli and Craig Revel Horwood deliver their verdicts on the various performances, and with the grand final now only one month away, the stakes will be higher than ever.

**8.10 Doctor Who.** The Doctor, Clara and their old friend Rory investigate a strange alien world hidden on a street in the heart of London, and once again cross paths with immortal Viking Ashtor.

**9.00 Casualty.** Iain dismisses Dixie's concerns about Jess as mere jealousy. Cal panics when baby Matilda develops a rash.

**9.50 The National Lottery Live.** Ore Oduba presents as the all-important winning numbers are revealed.

**10.00 BBC News: Weather.**

**10.20 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Manchester City v Liverpool and Watford v Manchester United; National Lottery Update.

**11.50 The Apprentice.** The off duty candidates are interrupted by Lord Sugar, who gives them the challenge of opening a discount store and turning products into profit within two days. (R)

**12.50 Weather for the Week Ahead.**

**12.55 BBC News.**

BBC2

**6.00 NFL Highlights.** 6.45 Film: The Hunchback of Notre Dame. (1939) 8.35 Film: Sinbad the Sailor. (1947) 10.30 Animal Park. (R) 11.00 Ronnie's Animal Crackers. (R) 11.30 Ronnie's Animal Crackers. (R) 12.00 My Life on a Plate. (R) 12.45 My Life on a Plate. (R) 1.30 Len and Ainsley's Big Food Adventure. (R) 2.15 Child Stars: Talking Pictures. 2.55 Film: In Search of the Castaways. (1962) Children's adventure, starring Hayley Mills. 4.30 Escape to the Continent. (R) 5.30 The Great Pottery Throw Down. The remaining potters have to make 10 identical long necked vases. (R)

**6.30 Flog It!** Thomas Plant and Anita Manning visit Warwick Castle, where they value a collection of tribal items and an extensive postcard collection. Presenter Paul Martin also takes a behind-the-scenes look at the prop and set design workshops at the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon. (R)

**7.30 Great Continental Railway Journeys.** Michael Portillo ventures deep into the Black Forest, where he discovers how Hansel and Gretel helped to unify the German nation. (R)

**8.30 Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring devises a cunning new way of foiling Hitler's invasion plans – but it results in Pike getting trapped in the middle of a minefield. (R)

**9.00 Qi XL.** An extended edition in which Stephen Fry is joined by Sandi Toksvig, Aisling Bea, Susan Calman and regular panellist Alan Davies to navigate the topic of mathematics.

**9.45 Film: The Help.** (2011) An aspiring journalist returns to her Mississippi home in the 1960s and begins documenting the lives of black servants working for wealthy white families. Her project brings the community's household staff together, but creates controversy among their employers. Drama based on Kathryn Stockett's novel, starring Emma Stone, Viola Davis, Bryce Dallas Howard and an Oscar-winning Octavia Spencer.

**12.05 Film: The Painted Veil.** (2006) An English doctor in 1920s China takes his unfaithful wife on a dangerous journey to a remote village ravaged by disease. Period drama based on W Somerset Maugham's novel, starring Edward Norton, Naomi Watts. 2.00 This is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00 CITV:** Bottom Knockers Street. 6.10 Bottom Knockers Street. (R) 6.25 Bottom Knockers Street. (R) 6.35 Dingo Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.50 Dingo Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.05 Oddbods. (R) 7.10 Sooty. (R) 7.25 Super 4. (R) 7.40 Adventure Time. 8.00 Marvel Avengers Assemble. 8.30 Thunderbirds Are Go. 9.00 Jessie. 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 11.25 ITV News: Weather. 11.40 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.40 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 1.45 Judge Rinder. (R) 2.45 Doc Martin. (R) 3.45 Film: Field of Dreams. (1989) Baseball fantasy, with Kevin Costner and Ray Liotta. 5.45 Regional Programme: Weather. 6.00 ITV News: Weather. 6.15 Catchphrase. 7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Heptathlete Louise Hazel, comedian Joel Dommett, 1980s music star Sinitta and actor Les Dennis team up to take part in the quiz show, in which they must answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit – all without being caught out by the "quiz genius" Chaser. Presented by Bradley Walsh. 8.00 The X Factor. Caroline Flack and Olly Murs present as the remaining would-be stars face their fourth live show. With casualties already having occurred in Cheryl Fernandez-Versini's Groups and Simon Cowell's Overs, the pressure is continuing to increase for the contestants, who once again take to the stage to perform in front of the judges and the viewing public. Tomorrow's show will see yet another act eliminated following a tense sing-off. 9.40 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Ant and Dec catch up with the stranded stars following their first six days in the camp, discovering whether any of them are starting to struggle with the pressures of jungle life. 10.40 The Jonathan Ross Show. One Direction join Jonathan in the studio to perform two songs and speak about their "extended hiatus" in 2016. 11.45 ITV News: Weather. 12.00 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Peter Andre. (R) 12.55 Jackpot247. 3.00 Show Me the Telly. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

**6.15 How I Met Your Mother.** (R) 6.40 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 7.05 Mourned Skyline 2015. 7.30 The Grid. 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.00 The Morning Line. 10.00 Frasier. (R) 10.30 Frasier. (R) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory. 11.30 The Big Bang Theory. 11.55 The Big Bang Theory. 12.25 The Simpsons. (R) 1.00 The Simpsons. (R) 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Haydock Park and Ascot. 4.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.25 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.25 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.30 Channel 4 News. 7.00 The World's Weirdest Weather. New series. More unusual natural phenomena, including freak hailstorms in the desert, deadly "rain bombs", underwater volcanoes that affect the weather on the surface, lakes that it is possible to walk across, and a forest of rain-carved rock. Previously seen on More4. 8.00 Grand Designs: House of the Year. Kevin McCulloch reveals five more candidates vying to be crowned Riba House of the Year 2015, including a luxurious city home complete with a basement swimming pool, a concrete arch brick open-plan house in Liverpool, and a geometric homestead in Northern Ireland. Plus, a Hollywood-inspired pad in north London, and a modernist villa in north Wales. (R) 9.00 Film: Red 2. (2013) Premiere. Former CIA agent Frank Moses reunites his squad of retired operatives for a vital mission. A devastatingly powerful new weapon has been stolen, and it falls to Frank's team to retrieve it – which means facing lethal assassins, terrorists and corrupt government officials out to steal the device. Action thriller sequel, starring Bruce Willis, Helen Mirren and John Malkovich. 11.20 TFI Friday. Chris Evans hosts the lively entertainment show mixing music and chat with stunts and skits, with guests including Stereophonics, Mark Ronson, ELO and Hozier. (R) 12.20 Jimmy Carr: Being Funny. (R) 1.15 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) 2.10 Fargo. (R) 3.10 Hollyoaks. (R) 5.15 Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R) 5.25 Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake!** 8.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. 9.30 The Saturday Show. 11.30 Film: My Santa. (2013) 1.10 Film: Snowed in at Rosemont. (2015) Premiere. Drama, starring Ayla Kell. 3.00 Film: Christmas Mail. (2010) Comedy, starring Ashley Scott. 4.50 Film: Naughty or Nice. (2012) Premiere. Festive fantasy, starring Hilary Burton. 6.30 5 News Weekend. 6.35 Funnies Fails, Falls & Flops. Comedy clip show featuring pranks gone wrong, unwise acts and failed attempts of misplaced ambition. (R) 7.00 Police Interceptors. Justin Moffitt and Paul Faulkner chase down a gang of suspected car thieves, while it takes seven officers to stop a violent thief who tries to sink his teeth into them. (R) 8.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Agents Stewart McCracken and Elmore Victor head to Liverpool for what they expect to be a routine repossession, but instead face the most challenging eviction of their careers. Behind the front door, they find a critically ill two-year-old child with major heart problems, who is on constant life support and unable to breathe without a ventilator. Meanwhile, Brian O'Shaughnessy and Del Anglin chase £2,000 worth of debt owed by a business based in Kent, and recover £4,000 from a recycling business in Buckinghamshire. (R) 9.00 Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches. In the Championship, Leeds United hosted manager Steve Evans' former club Rotherham United and Middlesbrough took on Queens Park Rangers at the Riverside Stadium. Plus, a round-up of the action from Leagues One and Two, discussion on the main talking points, and interviews with a selection of players and managers. 10.25 Greatest Christmas TV Moments. Countdown of 50 festive TV highlights, featuring Gavin & Stacey, Morecambe and Wise, Only Fools and Horses, Wallace and Gromit, Doctor Who, Top of the Pops and The Royle Family. (R) 1.10 SuperCasino. 3.10 BAMMA: Night of Champions. 5.00 Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) 5.15 Make It Big. (R) 5.45 Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
7.00 Don't Tell the Bride 8.00 Top Gear 9.00 Russell Howard's Good News 9.30 Film: Kidulthood (2005) 11.00 Family Guy 1.15 Russell Howard's Good News 1.45 Josh 2.15 Rent a Cop 2.45 Footballers: Sex, Money, What's Gone Wrong? 3.45 Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth 4.00 Close

**BBC Four**  
7.00 Lost Land of the Tiger 8.00 Roman Britain: A Timewatch Guide 9.00 The Bridge 11.00 Catching History's Criminals: The Forensics Story 12.00 Kings of Rock 'n' Roll 1.00 Totally British: 70s Rock 'n' Roll 3.00 Lost Land of the Tiger 4.00 Close

**ITV2**  
11.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! 12.30 The Xtra Factor 1.30 Scorpion 2.25 Totally You've Been Framed! 3.25 Catchphrase 4.05 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! 5.35 Film: Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005) 7.55 Film: Hulk (2003) 10.40 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! 11.40 The Keith Lemon Sketch Show 12.40 Viral Tap 1.25 Crazy Beaches 1.50 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 2.15 Animal Practice 2.40 Teleshopping 5.40 ITV2 Nightscreen

**ITV3**  
2.55 Film: Colombo: Forgotten Lady (1975) 4.55 Midsomer Murders 6.55 Doc Martin 8.00 Midsomer Murders 10.00 Lewis 12.05 A Touch of Frost 2.10 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping

**ITV4**  
12.45 Live World Series of Darts Finals. 4.55 Midsomer Murders 6.55 Doc Martin 8.00 Midsomer Murders 10.00 Lewis 12.05 A Touch of Frost 2.10 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping

**E4**  
11.00 Made in Chelsea 12.00 Couples Come Dine with Me 2.00 Melissa & Joey 3.00 The Goldbergs 4.00 Film: Diary of a Wimpy Kid (2010) 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: The Woman in Black (2012) 11.00 Gogglebox 1.05 The Inbetweeners 2.10 The IT Crowd 3.00 Drifters 3.25 How I Met Your Mother 4.10 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 4.35 Revenge 5.20 Rules of Engagement

**Film4**  
1.00 Bend of the River (1952) 1.00 Toys (1992) 3.20 Princess Mononoke (2001) 6.05 Independence Day (1996) 9.00 X-Men: First Class (2011) 11.35 Byzantium (2012) 1.50 Sightseers (2012) 3.40 Close

Immediate Delivery Available

Loads More Instore

# Furniture Emporium

## CHRISTMAS Special

### EXTENDED FOR A FURTHER WEEK

Leather Air Brown

Was £1499

Only

3+1+1 Recliner

£799

7 Days only, So hurry and don't be disappointed

This offer is only available with the paper and not to be repeated

thefurniture-emporium.com

0121 448 4340

Furniture Emporium Unit 2 Eagle Trading Estate, Stourbridge Road, Halesowen. B63 3UA (Opposite Halesowen Football Ground)

Opening Times Mon Sat 10am to 6pm | Sun & Bank Holidays 11am to 4pm

Donations and local House Clearances

We collect free of charge Furniture, Clothing, Bedding, Electrics, Shoes, DVD's CD's and Games

Give Us Call ...

Make some space for 2016 .

Call FREE on: 0800 566 8540

www.mshtrading.co



CHOICE



**Simon Reeve**  
**Ireland with Simon Reeve (BBC2, 8pm)**  
The adventurer returns with a new two-part exploring the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Both form one of the world's most beautiful islands in the world: a region steeped in history, culture and belief, but one with a complex and troubled past. The first stop is County Wexford where Simon examines the start of the long, turbulent relationship between Britain and Ireland. He also takes a paramotor flight up along the coast, then heads to Cork where he joins the thousands who make the exhausting climb up the sacred mountain of Croagh Patrick. Then it's off to the surf town of Northern Ireland, where he visits Crom Castle and moves on to the city of Londonderry.

BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast. 7.25 Match of the Day.** (R) **9.00 The Andrew Marr Show.** **11.00 Sunday Morning Live.** **11.00 Regional Programme.** **12.15 Bargain Hunt.** (R) **1.00 BBC News.** **Weather.** **1.15 Sophia: Suffragette Princess.** **1.45 Homes Under the Hammer.** (R) **2.30 Escape to the Country.** (R) **3.15 Regional Programme.** **4.15 Songs of Praise.** **4.50 The Hunt.** (R) **5.50 BBC News.**  
**6.10 Regional Programme.**  
**6.15 Countryfile.** The shows comes from Dorset, where Ellie Harrison meets the members of a very special countrymen's club and goes looking for kingfishers at an urban bird reserve in Weymouth. Matt Baker visits a woodland architecture school, where local trees are used as building materials. Jules Hudson drops in to a historic family butcher's. Adam Henson takes stock on the farm, and Tom Heap weighs up the pros and cons of dredging Britain's ports. Including Weather For The Week Ahead.  
**7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkelman present last night's results from the Blackpool Tower Ballroom.  
**8.00 Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents a show from Walmer Castle in Kent, where the team values a jacket worn by President Kennedy that could be one of the most valuable items on the series.  
**9.00 The Hunt.** The hunting methods of aquatic predators, who often have to travel vast distances in search of food. Featuring footage of blue whales, frigate birds, sharks and spinner dolphins.  
**10.00 BBC News.**  
**10.20 Regional Programme.**  
**10.30 Match of the Day 2.** Tottenham Hotspur v West Ham United. Mark Chapman presents action from the Premier League clash between the London rivals at White Hart Lane.  
**11.15 Citizen Khan.** Shazia and Amjad find it hard to cope as their baby is struggling to sleep during the night. (R)  
**11.45 The Graham Norton Show.** Tom Hanks talks about his role in new Spielberg thriller Bridge of Spies. Plus, banter with comedian David Walliams and Doctor Who star Peter Capaldi. (R)  
**12.30 Weather for the Week Ahead.** **12.35 BBC News.**

BBC2

**6.00 The A to Z of TV Gardening.** (R) **6.45 The Big Allotment Challenge.** (R) **7.45 Countryfile.** (R) **8.45 An Island Parish: Falklands.** (R) **9.15 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** **10.45 My Life on a Plate.** (R) **11.30 Len and Ainsley's Big Food Adventure.** (R) **12.15 MOTD2 Extra.** **1.00 Len and Ainsley's Big Food Adventure.** (R) **1.45 Film: Cimarron.** (1960) **4.10 Flog It!** (R) **5.00 Dismantling: The Wrecking Crew.** (R)  
**6.00 Live Tennis: ATP World Tour Finals.** Coverage of the singles final of the season-ending competition from the O2 in London, where Novak Djokovic has been victorious for the last three years.  
**7.00 Robert Peston Goes Shopping.** The BBC News business editor examines the shopping boom of the late 1990s and early 2000s, which was fuelled by cheap credit and a buoyant economy. (R)  
**8.00 Ireland with Simon Reeve.** Two-part programme exploring the history of both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. In the first episode, Simon tries to climb the sacred mountain of Croagh Patrick.  
**9.00 The Secret History of the British Garden.** Monty Don visits Croome Castle, Worcestershire, as he turns his attention to the 18th century, when the first landscape gardens were created and a revolution in gardening occurred.  
**10.00 Family Guy.** Lois books a couple's vacation, but it turns out to be a marriage counselling programme, while Carter is frustrated because the kids are so into their electronics. Last in the series.  
**10.20 Family Guy.** Peter and his friends try to save the Drunken Clam when the bar's owner dies. Meanwhile, Meg gets a job at a funeral home.  
**10.45 Family Guy.** The Griffins move to a farm after they are evicted. When the family begins to struggle financially, Peter starts an illicit drug business.  
**11.05 Film: All Good Things.** (2010) The heir of a wealthy family marries a medical student, but is suspected of murdering her when she disappears without trace. Crime drama, starring Ryan Gosling, Kristen Dunst, Frank Langella and Kristen Wiig.  
**12.40 Sign Zone: Countryfile.** (R) **1.35 Holy City.** (R) **2.35 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

**6.00 CITY: Bottom Knockers Street.** **6.10 Bottom Knockers Street.** (R) **6.25 Bottom Knockers Street.** (R) **6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **6.50 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story.** (R) **7.05 Oddbods.** (R) **7.10 Sooty.** (R) **7.25 Super 4.** (R) **7.40 Matt Hatter Chronicles.** **8.00 Marvel Avengers Assemble.** **8.30 Fish Hooks.** **8.45 Fish Hooks.** **9.00 Jessie.** **9.25 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **10.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **11.20 TV News: Weather.** **11.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **12.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **1.35 The Chase.** (R) **2.30 The X Factor.** (R) **4.15 Film: The Mummy.** (1999) Fantasy action adventure, starring Brendan Fraser.  
**6.30 Regional Programme: Weather.** **6.45 ITV News: Weather.**  
**7.00 Jekyll and Hyde.** Robert discovers he has some distant relations, so he and Max travel to the remote village where they live in the hope they will be able to tell him more about the Jekyll! curse. On their arrival, they discover several mysterious deaths have occurred recently and the locals believe a legendary demonic dog is responsible. Amelia Bullmore guest stars.  
**8.00 The X Factor.** Caroline Flack and Olly Murs present the results of last night's live show, revealing which acts are safely through to the next round. The two lowest scoring contestants compete in a sing-off in front of judges Nick Grimshaw, Rita Ora, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini and Simon Cowell to decide who gets to stay in the competition and who gets eliminated.  
**9.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!** Ant and Dec present the celebrity survival challenge, as the famous faces continue their ordeal in the Australian jungle, struggling to complete the tough daily tasks. As the first week draws to a close, a contestant is chosen to face the latest Bush Tucker Trial.  
**10.05 ITV News: Weather.**  
**10.20 Film: Captain Corelli's Mandolin.** (2001) A soldier in the Italian invasion force controlling the Greek island of Kefalonia falls for a local girl. Second World War romantic drama, starring Nicolas Cage and Penelope Cruz.  
**12.40 Jackpot247.** **3.00 Motorsport UK.** **3.50 ITV Nightscreen.** **5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R)

CHANNEL 4

**6.15 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **6.40 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **7.05 Chasing Perfection.** **8.00 Frasier.** (R) **8.30 Frasier.** (R) **9.00 Frasier.** (R) **9.30 Sunday Brunch.** **12.30 The Simpsons.** (R) **12.55 The Simpsons.** (R) **1.25 Film: Inkheart.** (2008) Fantasy adventure, starring Brendan Fraser. **3.30 Film: Rio.** (2011) Animated comedy, with the voice of Jesse Eisenberg. **5.30 Channel 4 News.**  
**6.00 Small Animal Hospital.** John Barrowman checks up on a poodle with a life-threatening joint condition, a collie having eye surgery, and a cat that needs a radioactive injection for a hormonal illness.  
**7.00 Restoring Britain's Landmarks.** Following the final push to complete the restoration of St Edward's Presbytery in Ramsgate, which was designed by architect Augustus Pugin. Elsewhere, Alastair Dick-Cleland visits an unusual Martello tower at Aldeburgh in Suffolk that is battling to stay afloat, and Anna Keay explores Appleton Water Tower in Sandringham Park, investigating its role in disease and death on the Royal Estate. Last in the series. (R)  
**8.00 Building Hitler's Supergun: The Plot to Destroy London.** Hugh Hunt examines how the Nazis built the largest cannon in history during the Second World War, a 25-barrelled artillery piece built into a French hillside. He performs a series of experiments to determine how the weapon worked and whether it could have fulfilled its intended purpose - destroying London in its entirety. He also examines plans by the Allies to destroy it, including drone bombers and earthquake-causing weapons.  
**9.00 Homeland.** Saul opens up to Allison, and Carrie is reunited with some old friends.  
**10.00 Gogglebox.** Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)  
**11.05 Film: Welcome to the Punch.** (2013) Crime thriller, starring James McAvoy and Mark Strong.  
**12.55 Grand Designs Australia.** **1.50 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners.** (R) **2.50 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **4.40 Food Unwrapped.** (R) **5.05 Location, Location, Location.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake!** **Peppa Pig.** **6.05 Bananas in Pyjamas.** (R) **6.20 Angelina Ballerina.** (R) **6.30 Bob the Builder.** (R) **6.45 Ticky Tock.** (R) **6.55 Zack and Quack.** (R) **7.05 Make Way for Noddy.** (R) **7.20 Paw Patrol.** (R) **7.30 Little Princess.** (R) **7.45 Pip Ahoy!** (R) **7.55 Blaze and the Monster Machines.** **8.20 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **8.40 Wanda and the Alien.** (R) **8.55 Toby's Travelling Circus.** (R) **9.10 Jelly Jamm.** (R) **9.25 LazyTown.** (R) **9.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** **10.30 Football League Tonight.** **12.00 Street Crime UK: Caught on Camera.** (R) **12.30 Film: Christmas with the Kranks.** (2004) Festive comedy, starring Jamie Lee Curtis and Tim Allen. **2.00 Film: Matchmaker Santa.** (2012) Romantic comedy, with Lacey Chabert and Adam Mayfield. **4.00 Film: Mrs Miracle.** (2009) Family drama, starring Doris Roberts. **5.50 Film: Annie Claus is Coming to Town.** (2011) Christmas fantasy, starring Maria Thayer.  
**7.35 5 News Weekend.**  
**7.40 Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops.** Comedy clip show featuring pranks gone wrong, unwise acts and failed attempts of misplaced ambition.  
**8.10 Impractical Jokers UK.** The guys work in a fast food restaurant and a supermarket, and are challenged to say inappropriate things to the customers. They also have to persuade members of the public to sign a ridiculous petition and have to clean up after dogs in the park.  
**8.35 Impractical Jokers US.** The guys act as fortune tellers at a boardwalk, and try to impress women.  
**9.00 Film: Angels & Demons.** (2009) Academic adventure Robert Langdon is called in by the Vatican to deal with a crisis. The Pope has died and the four cardinals in line to be his successor have all been abducted by a mysterious sect that is threatening to murder them. As he searches for the kidnapped cardinals, Langdon discovers the cult has an even more horrific plan in mind. Thriller sequel to The Da Vinci Code, with Tom Hanks and Ewan McGregor.  
**11.45 Film: Stargate.** (1994) Sci-fi adventure, starring Kurt Russell and James Spader.  
**1.50 SuperCasino.** **3.10 Eamonn & Ruth: How the Other Half Lives.** (R) **4.00 House Doctor.** (R) **4.25 Make It Big.** (R) **5.45 Angels of Jarm.** (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00 Live Tennis:** ATP World Tour Finals. **9.00 Russell Howard's Good News 10.00 Comedy Fest Live 2013 11.05 Family Guy 11.50 American Dad! 12.10 Family Guy 12.30 Josh 1.00 Rent a Cop 1.30 The Fear 2.00 Saving the Cyber Sex Girls: Stacey Dooley Investigates 3.00 Russell Howard's Good News 4.00 Close**  
**BBC Four**  
**7.00 Timeshift:** How Britain Won the Space Race - a Story of Bernard Lovell and Jodrell Bank **8.00 Nigel Slater's Icing on the Cake 9.00 Arena: Night and Day 10.30 Film: West (2014) 12.05 Operation Crossbow 1.05 Secrets of the Universe: Great Scientists in Their Own Words 2.05 Ceramics: How They Work**  
**ITV2**  
**11.20 The X Factor 1.05 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! 2.10 Film: A Cinderella Story (2004) 4.05 Film: Happy Feet (2006) 6.15 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! 7.15 Film: Liar Liar (1997) 9.00 The Xtra Factor 10.05 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! 11.05 Plebs 12.05 Viral Tap 12.50 Reality Bites 1.30 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 1.55 Animal Practice 2.15 Teleshopping 5.45 ITV2 Nightscreen**  
**ITV3**  
**12.40 Film: Columbo: Forgotten Lady (1975) 2.50 Agatha Christie's Marple 4.55 Midsomer Murders 6.50 Sunday Night at the Palladium 7.55 Wycliffe 9.00 Lewis 11.05 Inspector Morse 1.10 Film: Death Becomes Her (1992) 2.50 On the Buses 3.15 ITV3 Nightscreen**  
**ITV4**  
**12.45 Live World Series of Darts Finals. 5.00 Storage Wars: New York 5.55 River Monsters 7.00 Live World Series of Darts Finals. 11.05 Being Kevin Pietersen 12.00 Keane and Vieira: Best of Memories 1.20 The Big Fish Off 2.20 Tommy Cooper 2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen**  
**E4**  
**12.30 Film: Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (2009) 2.20 Couples Come Dine with Me 4.20 The Big Bang Theory 6.15 Film: The Karate Kid (2010) 9.00 The Big Bang Theory 11.00 The Inbetweeners 11.00 The IT Crowd 12.00 Film: Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (2009) 1.55 Rules of Engagement 2.50 The New Normal 3.15 Hollyoaks**  
**Film4**  
**1.00 From Up on Poppy Hill (2011) 1.00 Dear John (2010) 3.05 Meet Dave (2008) 5.00 ParaNorman (2012) 6.50 Congo (1995) 9.00 Life of Pi (2012) 11.25 Adrift (2006) 1.15 Adaptation (2002) 3.35 Close**

**Oak Wood LODGES** 01597 811422

[www.oakwoodlodges.co.uk](http://www.oakwoodlodges.co.uk)

Norwegian log cabins situated at 1000ft above sea-level in the 'Heart of Wales'. Fantastic views with red kites soaring overhead. Stunning location and excellent touring centre. Dogs welcome. Small site. All year round availability.

**Spoil Yourself**  
Book a Lodge with a Hot Tub

**Superb holiday accommodation!**  
**PHONE FOR BROCHURE**

**WORCESTER BOSCH SPECIALIST WORCESTER BOSCH SPECIALIST WORCESTER BOSCH SPECIALIST WORCESTER BOSCH SPECIALIST**

**Gastek Solutions**

**FINANCE NOW AVAILABLE, NEW BOILERS FITTED... PAY MONTHLY!**

**24/7 Emergency Call Out**

**WORCESTER accredited installer**

**NEW GASTEK HOME SAFE PLAN**

- BRONZE - £14.99
- SILVER - £16.99
- GOLD - £18.99
- PLATINUM - £21.99
- LANDLORD PLATINUM - £24.99

(All prices are per month+VAT apply)

**NEW SHOWROOM NOW OPEN**  
Unit B15 Anchor Business Park, Dudley DY2 9AF  
Office Open 8am-6pm Monday-Friday 8am-4pm Saturday  
**Tel: 01384 560856**  
info@Gasteksolutions.co.uk www.gasteksolutions.co.uk

**Boiler Services**  
• Landlord Checks  
• Full Central Heating Systems  
• Boiler Swaps and Conversions  
• Bathroom Installations  
• Power Flushing  
• Gas Appliance Installations  
• All Domestic Plumbing Work  
• LPG Installations and Servicing

(All prices are plus VAT)

**ALL MAJOR CREDIT & DEBIT CARDS ACCEPTED**

**WORCESTER BOSCH SPECIALIST WORCESTER BOSCH SPECIALIST WORCESTER BOSCH SPECIALIST WORCESTER BOSCH SPECIALIST**

When you need extra support and care at home...

**Let Tipton Home Care take a Share**

Tipton Home Care provides personal care and support to the people of Tipton and the surrounding areas, in their own homes, ensuring peace of mind for both service users and relatives, and most of all dignity for those difficult moments.

Areas covered: **Tipton, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, North Dudley, Yew Tree Walsall, Tividale & Great Barr**

Tipton Home Care are always interested in talking to anyone who would like to join our company as care workers, to meet our ever increasing client list.

**Tipton Home Care**  
www.tiptonhomecare.co.uk

Tel: 0121 557 3649 (9 am-5 pm) Mobile: 07889 018517 Fax: 0121 557 6080

**New Department Opened - Personal Injury: Call our No Win No Fee Personal Injury Solicitors on 0121 238 0735**

**We can help with all types of accident and injury compensation**

- Road Traffic Accidents
- Accidents and Injuries at Work
- Accidents in Public Places
- Occupiers Liability
- Family Run Business
- Headed by Accredited Law Society Family Panel Member
- First Interview Free
- Divorce, Marriage Annulment, Civil Partnership
- Financial Settlement
- Application Under the Children Act 1989
- Cohabiting Couples, Separation Agreements
- Domestic Violence, Occupation Order
- Advice for litigants acting in person

**Shire Oak Solicitors**

6/7 Three Shires Oak Road, Bearwood B67 5BA

0121 238 0735 | info@shireoaksolicitors.co.uk | www.shireoaksolicitors.co.uk



FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**  
**The Christmas Pageant, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
A temperamental Broadway director takes over a small-town Christmas show, and renews her relationship with her ex-fiance. Romantic comedy, with Melissa Gilbert and Robert Mailhouse. (2011)

**TUESDAY**  
**Road to Christmas, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
A woman hitch-hiking to her wedding has second thoughts after becoming attracted to a man who gives her a lift. Romantic comedy drama, starring Jennifer Grey and Clark Gregg. Edited for language. (2006)

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Shine, BBC1, 11.35pm**  
Biopic of David Helfgott, the talented but fragile Australian pianist overwhelmed by the pressure of his father's obsession with success. With Geoffrey Rush and Armin Mueller-Stahl. (1996)  
**The Perks of Being a Wallflower, Channel 4, 12.35am**  
An introverted 15-year-old fails to fit in at a 1990s high school as he copes with personal traumas and his own social awkwardness. Drama based on director Stephen Chbosky's novel, starring Logan Lerman, Emma Watson and Ezra Miller. (2012)



The Perks of Being a Wallflower, Wednesday, Channel 4, 12.35am

**THURSDAY**  
**Mrs Miracle, Channel 5, 3.10pm**  
A widowed pianist finds it difficult to raise his six-year-old twin sons alone and also maintain his love of music. However, by hiring a very resourceful housekeeper, he manages to turn his life around. Family drama, starring Doris Roberts. (2009)

**FRIDAY**  
**Moon, BBC2, 11.35pm**  
Astronaut Sam Bell has been working alone at an energy-generating base on the moon for three years and desperately longs to return home. After he is injured in an accident, he begins to discover the disturbing truth about the operation he is running, and is forced to question his own identity. Sci-fi drama, starring Sam Rockwell, with the voice of Kevin Spacey. (2009)

An affluent London street is targeted

What is the mark of a quality drama these days? A thought-provoking plot is obviously important. Great acting is pretty crucial too. Plus, the screenplay should be by an inventive writer who knows how to grip an audience.

Thankfully, new, three-part series Capital ticks all those boxes and then some.

"Through drama, Capital captures the modern Britain that I'm passionate about bringing to the channel," says Charlotte Moore, controller of BBC One. "Peter Bowker's page-turning script shines a light on the comings and goings of one London Street and cleverly interweaves a vibrant set of characters who we soon realise know very little about their neighbours."

Bowker is one of British TV's premier scribes having penned the scripts for Blackpool, Occupation, Desperate Romantics, Eric and Ernie, From There to Here and Marvellous.

Capital reunites him with the star of the latter, Toby Jones, an actor who can seemingly turn his hand to anything, from horror in The Barbarian

Sound Studio to comedy with Detectivists.

"Obviously I am thrilled to be part of such a fantastic, diverse and talented cast, and also I'm excited to renew my working relationship with Pete Bowker," remarks Jones.

He'll be joined in the drama by his Doctorists colleague Rachael Stirling, as well as Lesley Sharp, Bryan Dick, Adeel Akhtar (recently seen in the BBC's excellent River) and Gemma Jones (last spotted in ITV's Unforgotten, but who also played Jones' mother in Marvellous).

"It is wonderful to see such a stellar cast starring in Capital," claims executive producer Lucy Richler. "They are sure to bring Peter Bowker's stunning scripts to life in their portrayal of such funny, true and brilliant characters. The wealth of talent involved both on- and off-screen will cement Capital as a truly special drama for BBC One."

Bowker has more often than not originated stories himself, but this time he's adapted the tale from a novel by John Lanchester, who can't wait to

see the fruits of his labours: "It's going to be very exciting and very strange," he remarked when the drama was announced.

The premise is certainly intriguing. Set on Pepys Road in South London, it focuses on a group of residents who seem to have it all – or at least own properties worth millions thanks to rocketing house prices.

Among them is Roger, a banker hoping a forthcoming bonus will bring him and his spendthrift wife closer together while enabling them to pay off some debts, and local shopkeeper Ahmed, whose irresponsible brothers are the bane of his life.

Also living nearby is Petunia, an OAP in ill health who has lived in the street her whole life but must now contemplate leaving the house in which she was born, and asylum seeker Quentin, who receives nothing but abuse from its residents – she's a traffic warden.

One morning, each of them receives an anonymous message stating 'we want what you have'. But who sent it, and why are they targeting this street?



Toby Jones stars in Capital, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

**MONDAY**  
**Tomorrow's Food BBC1, 9pm**  
Over the past decade, Dara O Briain has proved himself to be one of TV's most valuable players, partly because he can break down scientific fact into bite-sized chunks. And on the subject of eating, this new series should also ensure we never look at our snacks and meals in the same way again. Dara and a team of experts take a closer look at state-of-the-art technologies which are revolutionising the way food is grown, bought and eaten around the globe. In episode one, our host is Kent-bound and visits hi-tech greenhouse farm Thanet Earth where they grow a huge quantity of fruit and veg throughout the year without any soil.

**London Spy BBC2, 9pm**  
During a brutal interrogation, the police accuse Danny of being responsible for Alex's death and he realises he is being framed as he is confronted with an increasing amount of incriminating evidence. He is then knocked sideways by a devastating revelation and turns to the only person who can help him – Scottie. The pair plunge into the world of Westminster politics and end up in a situation that threatens to swallow them both.

**TUESDAY**  
**CATASTROPHE Channel 4, 10pm**  
Sharon convinces Rob that now is a good time to return to teaching. However, when she finally secures a meeting with the Head Mistress, the conversation soon becomes a damburst of emotion for Sharon. Over at Rob's office, matters have become awkward around Olivia since he turned down her indecent proposal.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**THE APPRENTICE BBC1, 9pm**  
The contestants are summoned to the Museum of Childhood, where Lord Sugar instructs them to become party planners – surely an odd challenge for entrepreneurs to master, but it's all part of the game, it seems. The teams have two days to set up and host a children's party for some high spending clients, giving them the challenge of keeping an eye on profits and dealing with demanding customers. For one team, a massive oversight threatens the success of the task. On the other team, the entrepreneurs'

efforts miss the mark with a lacklustre assault course, and a blunder with the party gifts.

**Peep Show Channel 4, 10pm**  
As Jeremy's love life takes a surprising turn, Mark deals with his own matters of the heart. A girl he has had a crush on since university is launching her new book, so he seizes the opportunity to see her, telling himself it is endurance, not stalking. He invents a fictitious dinner party to get her into the flat, but things do not look good when she calls to ask if she can bring her husband.



Peep Show, Wednesday, Channel 4, 10pm

**THURSDAY**  
**BEN FOGLE: NEW LIVES IN THE UK Channel 5, 9pm**  
Ben meets 40-year-old Amanda Owen from Huddersfield, who left behind a comfortable existence to pursue her lifelong

dream of becoming a hill shepherdess. Despite having no background in farming, she now lives at a 2,000-acre farm in the Yorkshire Dales with husband Clive and their eight children. Ben is given a taste of life as a hill shepherd, learns the highs and lows of farming life and finds out how she copes looking after such a huge family as well as her 1,000 native Swaledale sheep.

**FRIDAY**  
**UNREPORTED WORLD Channel 4, 7.30pm**  
This latest series of hard-hitting documentaries bows out with reporter Seyi Rhodes and director Mike Healy travelling to Brazil to meet some of the nation's newest celebrities – child preachers who attract large crowds of people who believe the youngsters are in direct contact with God and that some can even perform miracles and cure the sick.

**Gino's Italian Escape – Islands in the Sun ITV, 8pm**  
On Sardinia, chef Gino D'Acampo takes a fishing trip and learns how fishing in the deep blue waters runs a close run second in importance to farming on the island. He then visits the bustling capital city of Cagliari, where he is introduced to the unique textures that the locals use to enhance their fish dishes.

CHRONICLE



Create a unique personalised gift

If you've recently appeared in the Chronicle, why not order a copy of your photo?

You could even turn your image into a canvas print, mug, glass coaster, jigsaw puzzle, mousemat and more!

For Christmas gifts order by Monday, November 23.

Please note: This service is not available for personal photographs and is only on selected prints. Copyright restrictions apply. Photos are available to view and order the next working day following publication. Allow 28 days for delivery.

View and order online at: [photosforsale.expressandstar.com](http://photosforsale.expressandstar.com) or call: (01902) 319444 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm)

Halesowen Fireplaces  
AT THE HEART OF YOUR HOME

Complete Fireplace Packages from £499 (including fire)

For a range of Gas and Electric Fires and Surrounds visit our showroom (opposite Tyre City on Long Lane)  
Telephone 0121 559 9985

Unit 14, Long Lane Trading Estate, Long Lane, Halesowen B62 9LD  
[www.halesowenfireplaces.co.uk](http://www.halesowenfireplaces.co.uk)

BARRY WELCOMES YOU

QUIZ NIGHT EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY 8PM START FREE ENTRY BEER/WINE TO BE WON NEXT QUIZ 2ND DECEMBER

GREAT CASK ALES FULL MENU AVAILABLE FAMILIES WELCOME FUNCTION ROOM BEER GARDEN

THE LIGHTHOUSE  
COOMBS ROAD, HALESOWEN  
0121 559 7952

USE YOUR LOFT!

Bison Loft Ladders

Access your loft safely and easily with Bison loft stairs. A "gas" strut mechanism requiring just fingertip control makes opening and closing your loft stairs exceptionally easy.

- Fully manufactured by us in the Midlands
- Free Survey
- 'Bison' loft ladders, only available from us
- Full 4 year parts & labour guarantee
- The only product available with a safety handle in the loft
- Fitted in approx 2 hours (including making the opening larger)
- NEW: Now available in white no painting required\*
- NEW: Now complete with "comfort" feet to protect carpets and wooden floors.

£395 Special offer for limited time £299 (incl VAT) Quote Ref ZZ

Over 10,000 installations

NEW: Long Safety Side Handles\*  
\*at extra cost

We also fit loft flooring, lighting and roof windows.  
All major credit cards accepted

the**loft**stairscompany

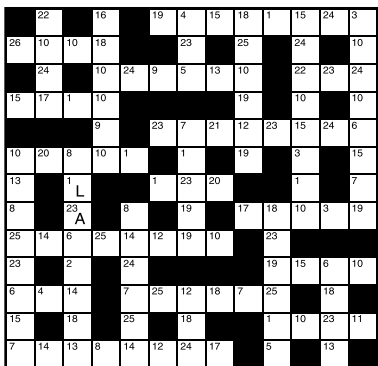
The Loft Stairs Company, Unit 60, Atcham Industrial Estate, Shrewsbury SY4 4UG  
Visit our website [www.theloftstairscompany.co.uk](http://www.theloftstairscompany.co.uk)  
Freephone 0800 389 1281  
or mobile friendly 01743 761499



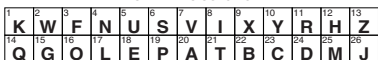
BRAIN GYM No.352

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

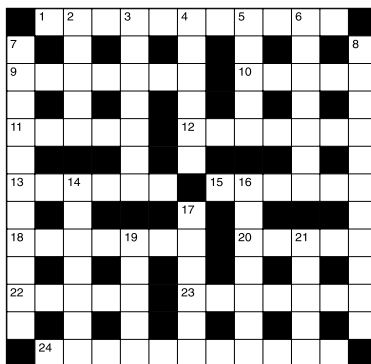
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. Displace labourer doing duty at different times (5,6)
- 9. A close shave for brother's capital (7)
- 10 & 21Dn. Like thinkers (5,5)
- 11 & 22Ac. Position for a bronze (5,5)
- 12. Taken by coach (7)
- 13. Commanding officer returns with unfinished oath, as it happens (6)
- 15. I want a change from Formosa (6)
- 18. Company gets clear arrangement for this vessel (7)
- 20. Therefore music partly features a classical figure (5)
- 22. See 11 Across
- 23. Maybe I can hit the bottle from Italy! (7)
- 24. Brutality shown by rows among quadrupeds (11)

Down

- 2. Method of communication in British India (5)
- 3. One of the first members to come to grief (7)
- 4. Reconstruct the war memorial for the dead (6)
- 5. Correct prerogative (5)
- 6 & 17Dn. This is used to put the pupil under heavier lashes! (7,6)
- 7. An aid for one engaged in heart-searching (11)
- 8. Not a vessel used for educational cruise! (11)
- 14. Anxiety about horse slaughter (7)
- 16. Level accusation against a sovereign term, by the sound of it (7)
- 17. See 6 Down
- 19. They are employed on vessels for a sea-trip, one hears (5)
- 21. See 10 Across



Quick Clues:

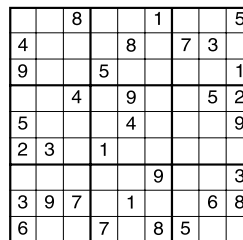
Across

- 1. Not easily described (11)
- 9. Voter (7)
- 10. Power (5)
- 11. Ledge (5)
- 12. Gorge (7)
- 13. Remember (6)
- 15. Quantity (6)
- 18. Wind (7)
- 20. Overturn (5)
- 22. Sound (5)
- 23. In brisk time (7)
- 24. Riches (11)

Down

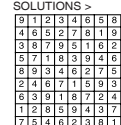
- 2. Fat (5)
- 3. Obedient (7)
- 4. Sadness (6)
- 5. Fire-arm (5)
- 6. Upstart (7)
- 7. Dimension (11)
- 8. Poverty (11)
- 14. Goblet (7)
- 16. Half-drunk (7)
- 17. Sermonise (6)
- 19. Live (5)
- 21. Symptoms (5)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Acid test; 5 Toga; 9 Imps; 10 Last year; 11 Issue; 12 Foundry; 13 Losses one's head; 18 Military; 19 Away; 20 Tension; 21 Light; 22 Drew; 23 Renegade. Down: 2 Comes to; 3 Dispute; 4 Staff entrance; 6 Overdue; 7 Arranged; 8 Stoops; 13 Limited; 14 Silence; 15 Sets in; 16 Hearing; 17 Abashed. QUICK - Across: 1 Gratitude; 5 Dear; 9 Also; 10 Arrogant; 11 Major; 12 Tripper; 13 Head over heels; 18 Arcadian; 19 Pick; 20 Travai; 21 Meant; 22 Nick; 23 Assisted. Down: 2 Release; 3 Two-fold; 4 Turn the tables; 5 Example; 7 Returns; 8 Polish; 13 Heaten; 14 Archaic; 15 Ordeal; 16 Express; 17 License.

Thinking space

Quiz

- 1. In which magazine were The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes serialised?
- 2. Which two dams were destroyed by the 'bouncing bombs' of Barnes Wallis?
- 3. Who wrote the hymn 'Hark, the Herald Angels sing'?
- 4. Which dynastic family ruled in Brandenburg-Prussia from 1415-1918?
- 5. What is the largest British prison for women?
- 6. In which city are The Gorbals?
- 7. From which country does the cheese Port Salut come?
- 8. In which year was Popeye created?
- 9. Who is the Greek equivalent of the Roman sun-god Sol?
- 10. In what century was the Taj Mahal built?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Two; 2 H.G. Wells; 3 1910; 4 1936-9; 5 September; 6 A fish; 7 A waxy substance produced in the intestines of the sperm whale; 8 Six; 9 Rene Descartes; 10 Buffalo Bill. Niner: MANIFESTO

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

143498 gives a month, 148457 gives a season, 945562 gives another season.



star★extra TRAVEL London Theatre Breaks

Choose your show, price band\* and how you want to travel

Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days  
Departures most weekends

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days  
Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night Theatre from £169.<sup>95</sup>

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels (hotel supplements may apply) and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Saturday Night from £149.<sup>95</sup>

Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £159.<sup>95</sup>

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing.

Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel plus full English breakfast.

Pick-up points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

\*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Theatre Showstopper from £239.<sup>95</sup>

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.



For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to [expressandstar.com/starextratravel](http://expressandstar.com/starextratravel)

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions



# Substantial and stylish modern family home



**TEN Church Road, Swindon Village, Dudley, is a modern Georgian-style four-bedroom detached home.**

It is for sale through Taylors at £389,950.

With gas central heating and cavity wall insulation, it has a reception hall with stairs; ground-floor WC; large attractive lounge with an Adam-style fireplace; formal dining room; study; spacious breakfast kitchen; four bedrooms (master with fitted furniture and an en suite).

Outside is a double garage, side and rear gardens.

Contact Taylors on (01384) 401777 or [www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk](http://www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk)



# Four-bedroom house is detached in quiet close



**THIS stunning four-bedroom detached family home in Oxford Drive, off Pargeter Street 'Old Quarter', Stourbridge, has been expensively improved.**

Built by David Payne Homes, it is for sale through Taylors at £349,950.

It has a reception hall with stairs off; re-appointed cloakroom/WC; attractive sitting room with a bow window; impressive kitchen/diner and dining area with patio doors.

Bedroom one is fitted with furniture and has a stylish, large bathroom en suite; bedroom two has fitted furniture. There are two further bedrooms; main, contemporary shower room; large linen/storage cupboard off the landing.

Outside is a driveway; lawned fore-garden; carport; garage and an enclosed rear garden with decking; raised lawn. Call 01384 395555 or visit [www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk](http://www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk)



## Hicks Hadley

[hickshadley.com](http://hickshadley.com)  
0121 585 6667

Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management



**HALESOWEN, Ashville Drive £700 pcm+Fees**  
An unfurnished detached house in a popular area, briefly comprising of: gas central heating, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, downstairs wc, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, front & rear gardens, garage & driveway parking, within easy reach of Halesowen College & town centre. Available now. EPC: B/C.



**HALESOWEN, Lyde Green £675 pcm+Fees**  
Located in a popular residential area & a great location for access to Cradley Heath Train Station & Merry Hill is this semi detached home featuring a spacious lounge, dining room/study, kitchen, 3 good size bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, private rear gardens, driveway for 2 cars. Available Now! EPC: C.



**ROWLEY REGIS, Powke Lane £675 pcm+Fees**  
A mid three storey ex show home townhouse situated close to local shops and transport links. Featuring gas central heating, downstairs w.c., fitted kitchen, living room, 3 bedrooms, master bedroom with en suite shower room and dressing area with some fitted furniture, house bathroom, front & rear gardens, garage, parking space. EPC: TBC.



**HALESOWEN, Overend Road £675 pcm+Fees**  
A modern 3 bedroom semi-detached house in a very convenient location comprising of: hall, large lounge, conservatory, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden, garage & driveway for 2 cars. EPC: D.



**BARTLEY GREEN, Ludford Road £650 pcm+Fees**  
Located in the Woodgate area. Ideally situated for Woodgate Primary School, this newly decorated 3 large bedroom terraced house features fitted kitchen, large lounge, house bathroom with shower, separate w.c., rear garden with storage shed, available now. EPC: D.



**DUDLEY, St Catherine's Close £650 pcm+Fees**  
Set in a quiet cul-de-sac is this lovely presented 3 bedroom modern semi-detached home, briefly comprising of: living room, fitted kitchen with appliances/dining area, 3 good size bedrooms, house bathroom with shower, rear garden and driveway parking for up to 3 cars. Early viewing recommended! EPC: TBC.



**HALESOWEN, Blackberry Lane £625 pcm+Fees**  
A lovely 2 bedroom end terrace in this very popular location close to Halesowen Town Centre and ideal for the number 9 bus into Stourbridge and Birmingham. Featuring a lounge, fitted dining kitchen with appliances, refitted bathroom and shower, central heating & double glazing, private rear garden, available now. EPC: TBC.



**ROWLEY REGIS, Oldbury Road £625 pcm+Fees**  
A traditional semi detached family home in a very convenient location, close to motorway & train stations which comprises of: spacious lounge, large fitted kitchen/dining area, utility room, downstairs wc, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, rear garden, garage & driveway for 2 cars. Available Now. EPC: C.



**QUARRY BANK, Hordern Crescent £625 pcm+Fees**  
Delightful 3 bedroom semi-detached house in this popular location comprising of: entrance porch, lounge with stairs off, fitted kitchen/dining area, 3 good size bedrooms, modern bathroom with shower, newly fitted gas central heating, front & rear gardens & driveway parking for 2 cars. EPC: TBC.



**HALESOWEN, Nimmings Road £625 pcm+Fees**  
Large end terraced property close to Blackheath Town Centre & Rowley Regis Train Station. Lounge, fitted kitchen/dining area, 3 large bedrooms, bathroom with shower, central heating, double glazing, front & rear gardens with garage to rear of property and driveway parking for up to 3 cars. EPC: D.



**HALESOWEN, Mount Street £595 pcm+Fees**  
Beautifully presented and in the centre of Halesowen. This fantastic mid terrace property features 2 large reception rooms with one having a beautiful feature fire place, a lovely modern fitted kitchen with appliances, large downstairs family bathroom and shower, 2 large double bedrooms and a secluded rear garden. Also benefiting from gas heating, double glazing and on road parking. EPC: TBC.



**CRADLEY HEATH, Barrs Road £595 pcm+Fees**  
Located in the well-liked area of Cradley Heath close to Haden Hill Park and ideally situated in the catchment area for Timbertree Primary School. Featuring 2 large double bedrooms and 1 single large fitted kitchen, 2 generous reception rooms with elegant fireplaces, stylish bright bathroom with shower, downstairs wc, rear garden with lovely patio area, driveway parking for 1 car. EPC: D.



**HALESOWEN, Beecher Road £525 pcm+Fees**  
An unfurnished semi detached house, close to local shops and transport links to Halesowen, Stourbridge and Birmingham, briefly comprising of: 2 bedrooms, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, double glazing, gas central heating, bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens. EPC: E.



**HALESOWEN, Belgrave Road £525 pcm+Fees**  
1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! Situated in this convenient location close to local amenities and good transport links, this terraced property briefly comprises of 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms and refitted bathroom. The property further benefits from having central heating, double glazing and pleasant rear garden. Available Now. EPC: D.



**CRADLEY HEATH, Luanne Close £500 pcm+Fees**  
Wonderfully presented and with its own balcony. A 1st floor modern apartment, ideally located for Old Hill train station and local shops. Featuring 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, modern kitchen with washer/dryer, lovely lounge with access to your own private balcony, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking. EPC: B.



**HALESOWEN, Hammersley Close £500 pcm+Fees**  
Located in the very quiet cul-de-sac, close to local shops to Halesowen, Cradley Heath and Merry Hill, also close to Cradley Heath Train Station, is this unfurnished mid terrace house, comprising of: gas central heating, fitted kitchen, living room, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, rear garden, driveway parking. EPC: G.



**QUINTON, College Road £495 pcm+Fees**  
Large flat available above a shop close to direct bus links to Birmingham comprising of lounge, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, 2 large double bedrooms plus extra study/storage room, white bathroom with shower, electric heating. Available Now. EPC: G.



**ROWLEY REGIS, Mildred Way £495 pcm+Fees**  
Beautifully presented and located in a quiet road, is this unfurnished open plan bungalow, briefly comprising of: 1 bedroom with fitted wardrobes, house bathroom with shower, fitted kitchen with washing machine and oven, part double glazed, conservatory, low maintenance rear garden, driveway parking. EPC: F.



**NETHERTON, St Georges Road £425 pcm+Fees**  
Beautifully refurbished in a quiet location. This 1st floor apartment has undergone a complete refurbishment. Features electric storage heating, living room, brand new kitchen, 1 very large double bedroom, brand new house bathroom with shower, rear garden, parking space. Viewing recommended to appreciate this nicely proportioned flat. EPC: D.



**HALESOWEN, Mount Street £395 pcm+Fees**  
Centrally located and within walking distance to Halesowen town centre is this spacious ground floor flat. Featuring 1 double bedroom, fitted kitchen, spacious lounge, shower room, gas central heating, double glazing, on road parking, unfurnished. EPC: TBC.



**LYE, High Street £330 pcm+Fees**  
Located in the centre of Lye at Lye Cross. This 2nd floor flat above shops features a large lounge, kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, and is available immediately. EPC: TBC.



# humberstones homes

Quinton: 0121 422 1188  
Bearwood: 0121 434 4345  
www.humberstoneshomes.co.uk

## Sales & Lettings

A FRIENDLY HANDS-ON APPROACH DEDICATED TO SELLING YOUR HOME



**CASTLE ROAD WEST, OLDBURY**

IMMACULATE semi-detached home with potential to extend to rear. EPC rating: D

**SOLD**

QUINTON **£189,950**



**WOLVERHAMPTON RD, OLDBURY**

6 BEDROOMED DETACHED RESIDENCE. 3 RECEPTION ROOMS. ATTACHED GARAGE & DRIVEWAY. EPC rating: D

**SOLD**

BEARWOOD **£495,000**



**GALTON ROAD, BEARWOOD**

A rare opportunity to acquire an EXTREMELY SPACIOUS, DEPENDENT 2-FL. SEMI-DETACHED HOME. EPC rating: D

**SOLD**

BEARWOOD **£199,950**



**SHERWOOD ROAD, SMETHWICK**

SPACIOUS & EXTENDED home close to Bearwood High Street. EPC rating: D

**SOLD**

QUINTON **£165,000**



**BARTLEET ROAD, SMETHWICK**

4 bed DETACHED with sitting room / study, delightful lounge / arch. EPC rating: D

**SOLD**

BEARWOOD **£279,950**



**GRAFTON ROAD, OLDBURY**

SUPERB family home with UPVC CONSERVATORY. Dining room. EPC rating: D

**SOLD**

QUINTON **£159,950**



**WIGORN ROAD, BEARWOOD**

NO UPWARD CHAIN. REFITTED kitchen & 2 separate reception rooms. EPC rating: D

**SOLD**

QUINTON **£134,950**



**UPPER ST MARYS RD, BEARWOOD**

A delightfully presented, spacious and thoughtfully improved 2 bedroomed terrace. EPC rating: D

**SOLD**

BEARWOOD **£159,950**

## LOOK AT WHAT WE DID IN 2015

On this page, you will see a selection of the sales achieved from our 2 branches this year.

THERE IS STILL PLENTY OF TIME TO JOIN THEM AND GET YOUR PROPERTY SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT THIS YEAR

# NO SALE NO FEE

## WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO LOSE BY INSTRUCTING HUMBERSTONES HOMES?

- 2 LOCAL BRANCHES • COMPETITIVE FEES • FLOORPLANS • PROFESSIONAL PHOTOS • RIGHTMOVE LISTING • FULLY RESPONSIVE WEBSITE • QUALITY EYE CATCHING WINDOW DISPLAYS • PROMINENT HIGH STREET OFFICES • FRIENDLY, KNOWLEDGEABLE STAFF



**PARK ROAD, BEARWOOD**

Deceptively SPACIOUS, well presented END TERRACE, most CONVENIENT. EPC rating: D

**SOLD**

BEARWOOD **£149,950**



**GALTON ROAD, BEARWOOD**

A SPACIOUS 3 bed mid terrace, Convenient for Bearwood Town Centre. EPC rating: D

**SOLD**

BEARWOOD **£184,950**



**PARK ROAD, BEARWOOD**

An attractively presented, spacious, 2 bedroomed intermediate terrace. EPC rating: D

**SOLD**

BEARWOOD **£139,950**



**LIGHTWOODS HILL, BEARWOOD**

2 bedroomed intermediate terraced property with DELIGHTFUL OUTLOOK. EPC rating: D

**SOLD**

BEARWOOD **£185,950**



**MILCOTE ROAD, SMETHWICK**

Terraced home with WESTERLY facade rear garden close to Bearwood High Street. EPC rating: D

**SOLD**

D1567 **£144,950**



**CORNWALL AVENUE, OLDBURY**

SUPERB terraced home with DRIVEWAY for up to 6 cars on the front! EPC rating: D

**SOLD**

D1523 **£124,950**



**WIGORN ROAD, BEARWOOD**

WELL PRESENTED home with 2 reception rooms & REFITTED kitchen. EPC rating: D

**SOLD**

BEARWOOD **£154,950**



**RAMSAY ROAD, OLDBURY**

MUCH IMPROVED 3 bed semi with off road parking REFITTED BREAKFAST KITCHEN. EPC rating: D

**SOLD**

D1315 **£164,950**



# Local Specialists



## Appliance Repairs

### Washing Machine Repairs and all White Goods

"Don't go and  
buy a new one,  
get it repaired..."



**AA DOMESTICS**  
14 Hagley Road, Halesowen  
**01384 413590**  
**07981 398758**

## Blinds & Curtains

### Blinds4Less

Leaving a good impression!  
Choose from a fantastic range!

- Pleated -Venetians
- Romans -Curtains
- Verticals -Awnings
- Rollers -Shutters

New 3 Year Guarantee on Blinds  
and up to 10 Year Guarantee  
on Shutters

Give us a try before you buy!

Contact us on  
0121 270 6104  
07989 588728  
Blinds4lessdirect.com

## Carpentry

### CARPENTRY SERVICES

**ROBERT CHESNEY**  
CARPENTRY / JOINERY

KITCHEN FITTING SPECIALIST  
ALL CARPENTRY WORKS  
ROOFS / DOORS / LOCKS  
DECKING SPECIALIST

CALL NOW FOR A FREE QUOTE

0121 421 6740  
07779746939



## Driveways & Patios

### Cressage Paving

Specialists in:  
Block Paving, Tarmac, Landscaping, Graveling, Patios, Forecourts, Fencing and Driveways  
All Groundwork undertaken  
FREE WRITTEN QUOTATION  
Mini Digger & Driver available

01384 944032  
Mob: 07879 073702  
www.cressage-group.co.uk

## Decorating

### MJD Painter & Decorator Interior & Exterior

Special discounts for OAP's  
Free Quotes - Fully Insured  
Commercial Work Undertaken

No job too small  
Give Mick a Call  
Tel: 07889923896

Michael.J.Downing@hotmail.co.uk



## Automotive

### Why Pay Main Dealer Prices?

### Crossways Motor Bodies

- Motor Body Work Specialists
- Insurance Approved
- From a minor bump to major repairs
- FREE local pick up and delivery
- FREE estimates and written quotes

30 Years Experience



For a FREE estimate call:  
**0121 559 4040**

We also supply a car and van to none fault or insurance claims  
Web: [www.crosswaysmotorbodies.co.uk](http://www.crosswaysmotorbodies.co.uk)  
email: [crossways@btinternet.com](mailto:crossways@btinternet.com)

Station Road, Old Hill, Cradley Heath, B64 6PL

## Fencing

**PJW FENCING**

All types of fencing and gates supplied and fitted

Other services: Shed bases, slabbing and garden clearances, removal of trees, privet, old sheds and garages  
QUALITY WORKMANSHIP AT COMPETITIVE PRICES • ALL AREAS COVERED

For a free quote call  
**0121 532 2263 or 07951 536929**

**LBT Fencing**

All types of quality fencing supplied & erected  
Plus decking, slabbing & block paving

**FREE QUOTES**  
Tel: 0121 585 9992 or 07884 344616  
[www.lbtfencing.co.uk](http://www.lbtfencing.co.uk)

**Fencing & Gates**

All Garden Work Undertaken  
• Slabbing • Block Paving • Tree Felling  
• Turfing • Garden Clearance  
NO JOB TOO SMALL

Manufacturers of all Concrete Products  
eg. Concrete Posts, Gravel Boards  
All work guaranteed Insurance work undertaken  
Over 15 years experience (Public liability covered)

Call Steve on  
**01384 242891 or 07970 300586**

## Flooring

### UNEVEN FLOOR?

FLOORS MADE FLAT AND SMOOTH  
REPAIRS & IMPROVEMENTS TO TIMBER  
AND SOLID FLOORS

FLOORS PREPARED READY FOR ANY  
FLOOR COVERING!

FREE ESTIMATES AND ADVICE  
NO JOB TOO SMALL

PHONE MARK  
07770 686444

## Garage Doors

### DB GARAGE DOORS

- Supply
- Repair
- Up and Over
- Side Hinged
- Made to measure
- FREE Survey & Quotation
- Install
- Roller
- Sectional
- Remote Control
- Doors

[www.dbshutters.co.uk](http://www.dbshutters.co.uk)

Tel: 0121 422 1990 Mob: 07860 858378

## Plumbing

**HOUSEHOLD PLUMBING**

(General Plumbing and Bathrooms)  
All installations and repairs  
Supply and fit or fit only  
TIDY, MODERN APPROACH. REGISTERED PLUMBER  
No job too small. Friendly service. Free advice and quotes  
Tel: Neil 07968 786449 - 0121-602 6776  
[www.household-plumbing.co.uk](http://www.household-plumbing.co.uk)

## Mobile Hairdresser

**MOBILE HAIRDRESSER**

Cuts, Colours, Perms etc

Call Lyndsey **07795 514858**

## Building Plans

Do you prepare  
**Building Plans??**

If you want to advertise  
your business call  
**01902 319590**  
**01902 319577**

## Computers

### NEED ADVICE ON COMPUTING?

- All PC Problems Resolved • Software & Hardware Installed
- Virus & Spyware Removed • PC Health Checks
- Home Network Implemented • Internet Connections Installed

DONT BE FOOLED INTO THINKING YOU NEED A NEW PC

Call: 0121 422 7646 or 07970 846 552

**JUDRAP PC SUPPORT**

email: [support@judrap.com](mailto:support@judrap.com) [www.judrap.com](http://www.judrap.com)

## Electricians

### J S QUALITY ELECTRICAL SERVICES LTD

Fuseboard upgrades / complete rewires / security alarms and lighting  
/ fault finding and repairs / shower replacements and more

Domestic / Industrial / Commercial work undertaken  
Free quotations available Over 20 years' experience

Contact now:

0121 531 6884 / 07753 393562

[www.jsqualityelectrical.co.uk](http://www.jsqualityelectrical.co.uk)

[jselectricalservices@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jselectricalservices@hotmail.co.uk)

CERTIFICATIONS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE

**EW Electrical**  
Kingswinford Limited

Domestic  
Industrial  
Commercial

Fault Finding & Condition Reports  
Rewires/Part Rewires  
Additional Sockets  
Shower Replacements  
Intruder Alarms  
Security Lights  
Storage Heaters  
Electric Cooker Repairs  
Visit our website for more services  
Over 16 Years Experience

**01384 278471**  
[www.ewelectricalkingswinford.com](http://www.ewelectricalkingswinford.com)  
INSTALLATIONS 7 DAYS A WEEK

**MB electric**

All domestic and commercial  
electrical works undertaken  
Home rewiring from £800  
For a high quality  
local service call :  
0121 3690311  
07939 503905  
[mbelectric.co.uk](http://mbelectric.co.uk)

## Roofing

### SEMI RETIRED ROOFER

Ridge Tiles Rebedded,  
flat roofing,  
no job too small  
40 years experience.

Keith:

**07546 158165**

### ELECTRICIAN

Fully guaranteed work

Honest reliable service

**ANT ELECTRIC**

Ring Tony or Julie on

**07974 428 603**

**KEEP IT LOCAL**

'No Job Too Small'

## Builders

### D H Household Maintenance

Decking to DIY  
Plastering to Plumbing  
All areas covered

**0121 422 8594**

**07985 548466**

## Double Glazing

### Misted Sealed Units?

### Black Country Glazing

Contact US for a FREE quote!

Manufacturers  
& Installers of  
windows, doors &  
conservatories

'A' Rated Windows as Standard  
**10 YEAR GUARANTEE**

“Energy efficient windows  
that won't cost the earth”

Station Street, Cradley Heath, B64 6AJ

Est 1987 **01384 566100**

[www.blackcountryglazing.com](http://www.blackcountryglazing.com)

Which? FENSA

THE WINDOW DOCTOR

• Double glazing repairs

• Steamed up units

• Broken door locks

• Patio rollers

Units Fitted from £25

Established 1990

Telephone Michael **01384 356251**

To advertise your business and reach more than 41,000 potential customers...

1

Call us on...  
**01902 319590**

2

E-mail us at...  
[mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk)

3

Post to...  
Mark Moore, Halesowen Chronicle, Black Lake  
Regional Centre, West Bromwich B70 0QB



# Local Specialists

## Plumbing & Heating

### Gas Heating Services

130 Hagley Road (Shop 6),  
Halesowen B63 1DY

- Central Heating
- Gas Fitting
- Cooker Repairs
- Gas Appliance Servicing
- Boiler Maintenance & Repairs
- Specialists in Combination Boilers
- Landlord Inspections
- Family Run Business



**FREE QUOTES**



Call us today for fast, friendly advice  
**Office: 0121 503 0066**  
[www.gassafe1.com](http://www.gassafe1.com)

### Plumb Serve Plumbing & Heating SPECIALISTS

**Special Offer Boiler Service £50**

- Taps, Toilets, Baths & Waste
- Full Bathroom, En Suites Installed
- Drainage Unblocked/Repaired
- Radiators Fitted/Removed
- Cookers & Fires, Installed & Serviced
- Boiler Install, Serviced & Repaired
- Landlord Safety Checks
- Full Central Heating Systems

**24hr call out, Call us on 07513 094763**  
Card payments accepted

### Combi Doc Gas Safe registered 120506

Get your boiler serviced and ready for winter  
**Special Offers Now On!**  
Have you had your boiler/fire checked for Carbon Monoxide??  
Insulation, repairs and services on boilers, fires and cookers  
Install a band condensing boiler with free wireless room stat from £1250  
Ex British Gas with 30 years experience  
**07956 830204**

### ANDY ORMEROD Heating, Plumbing

- Gas Safe 87022 ACS approved
  - Landlords Gas Certificates issued
  - Servicing of Gas Appliances including installations
  - General Plumbing work undertaken
- A Member of the Approved Traders, Fix-A-Home Scheme

**Tel: 03335 772213**  
**Mobile: 07974 549460**

### Plumbing & Heating SMALL JOB SPECIALISTS

- Bathrooms fitted
- Heating systems
- Tiling
- Boiler repairs
- Electricians

**Tel: 07470 010012**

Gas Central Heating  
Central Heating Filter  
Showers  
Outside Taps  
Rain Water Guttering  
Tanks and Cylinders  
Water Service  
Pipe Repairs  
Tiling  
Plastering

**AGW**  
PLUMBING & HEATING

Sure Stop Water switches  
Gas Works  
Radiators  
Drainage Solutions  
Electrical Works  
Carpentry  
Bathroom Design and Installation  
Kitchens  
General Property Maintenance

Tel/Fax: 0121 556 1419  
Mobile: 07961 846856  
Email: [agwph@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:agwph@blueyonder.co.uk)  
Web: [www.agwplumbingandheating.net](http://www.agwplumbingandheating.net)

**KEN PERRY**  
PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEER  
Gas Fitting, Boiler Servicing  
and Immersion Heaters,  
Multi Point Water Heaters,  
Landlord's Gas Certificates,  
Boilers changed  
Guild of Master Craftsmen  
Gas Safe Registered  
**STOURBRIDGE 392284**



## Gardening

### ROWAN TREE & GARDEN SERVICES LTD

\*Tree Surgeon Specialist \*Stump Grinding/Root Removal  
\*Hedges Pruned/Shaped \*Jungles Cleared/Full Landscapes  
\*Fencing \*Turfing \*Concreting \*Driveways & Patios  
\*Plus Much More Call Now For a No Obligation Quotation  
**24/7 365 emergency callout service**  
**01384 213644 or 07733 226568**

AGE CONCERN & Local Authority Contractor, N.P.T.C. qualified,  
Public Liability Insurance (£5 million) All staff C.R.B. Certified  
**PART OF THE ROWAN GROUP OF COMPANIES**

### Maple Leaf Fencing & Landscaping

DECKING, SLABBING, FENCING,  
WALLS, TURFING, PERGOLA'S  
All size gates made to measure.  
For every aspect of your gardening needs, give me a ring any time  
7 days a week for FREE estimates and great ideas.  
Over 35 years' experience  
**Call Graeme on 07739 580558**

**LINDOPS**  
**LANDSCAPES**  
All Landscape Work Undertaken  
No Job Too Small or Too Big  
**FREE QUOTATIONS**  
All aspects of Tree Surgery,  
Block Paving, Fencing, etc  
Est. 25 Years  
Ex. Botanical Gardener  
**0121-421 2858**  
**07583 - 748872**  
10% OFF valid until 30th NOV 2015

**R & S Gardens**  
• All garden work undertaken  
• Hedges and lawns cut  
• General tidy and rubbish removed  
• Garden landscaping and fencing work  
Telephone: 07851 323303

**Dal's Gardening & Tree Services**  
• A Good reliable service,  
• A Name you can trust  
• All areas covered  
So don't delay phone today for a **FREE** quotation  
**07407 622855**



## Oven Cleaning

For a friendly local independent  
oven cleaning service  
**CLEANOVEN**

We clean all types of domestic  
ovens, cookers, traditional stoves,  
hobs, extractors and microwaves

Call us for a **FREE** quote

**Tel: 01384 393168**  
Mobile Anytime: 07713 163060

## Pets Corner

**4 PETS WHO KNOW A GOOD THING!**

**SPECIAL EVENT**  
14<sup>TH</sup>-24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
**SPECIAL PAMPER FORTNIGHT**  
PRICES FROM AS LITTLE AS **£15.00!**

**FREE PICK UP & DROP OFF**

CALL GARY: **01384 891008 / 07557 648100**

217 HIGH STREET, LYE, DY9 8JX  
[WWW.POSHKUTZ.WEBLY.COM](http://WWW.POSHKUTZ.WEBLY.COM)

## Plastering

**C.A. Plastering**  
For competitive quotes on all your refurbishment needs on  
plastering, boarding, overboarding, partitions, re-skimming  
and artex covering. Quality rendering and terrolling.  
**No job too small**  
**07538 718264**

**Nick's Plastering Services**  
ALL TYPES OF PLASTERING WORK UNDERTAKEN  
Advanced City and Guilds Qualified  
OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE  
Low Prices  
FREE QUOTES  
**0121 559 4818**  
**07930 525677**

**DH PLASTERERS**  
FROM boarding, skimming, gatching and repairs TO complete rooms  
GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES  
**0121 422 8594 or 07985 548466**  
**Specialists**

**Wednesbury Kitchens**  
• Kitchen and Bathroom Installation  
• Building Works  
• Extensions • Plastering  
• Tiling • Carpentry  
• Painting and Decorating  
• Plumbing and Electrical Works  
45 Lower High Street, Wednesbury  
**0121 505 3334**

**JC RE-UPHOLSTERY SERVICES**  
Re-upholstery, Repairs and Antiques  
**CONTRACT & DOMESTIC**  
No Job Too Small  
FREE ESTIMATES  
Choice of patterns  
Quality Workmanship  
e Birmingham  
0121 561 3977 daytime  
or 0121 561 2344 evenings after 6 pm

## Property Maintenance

### ROWAN PROPERTY MAINTENANCE LTD

★ Interior/Exterior Painting And Decorating  
★ All Aspects Of Plastering And Rendering  
★ Fascias, Soffits & Guttering  
★ Roof Repairs & Re-pointing ★ Pressure washing  
★ Plus Much More....  
**CALL NOW FOR A NO OBLIGATION QUOTATION**  
**01384 213644 or 07733 226568**  
AGE CONCERN & LOCAL AUTHORITY CONTRACTOR, CITY & GUILD QUALIFIED,  
PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE (£5 MILLION) ALL STAFF C.R.B. CERTIFIED  
**PART OF THE ROWAN GROUP OF COMPANIES**

## Roofing

### ALL WEATHER ROOFING

Slating, Tiling, New Roofs, Flat  
Roofs, Chimneys, Guttering, Ridges,  
Flashings, uPVC Fascia Cladding  
**FREE ESTIMATES • FAST RELIABLE SERVICE**

Over 30 years experience

**0121 420 1582**  
**NO CALL OUT CHARGE**  
Mobile Number: 07947 839451  
[allweatherroofingwestmids.co.uk](http://allweatherroofingwestmids.co.uk)  
[allweatherroofinguk@outlook.com](mailto:allweatherroofinguk@outlook.com)

### ELITE PLASTICS

• Fascias • Soffits • Dry Verge  
• Pointing • Gutter Cleaning And Repair  
Premium Products Expertly Fitted  
With Full Manufacture Guarantee.  
**For A Free Quote call**  
**01384 468831 / 07985 575865**  
[www.eliteplasticsupvc.co.uk](http://www.eliteplasticsupvc.co.uk)

### WTB ROOFING Services

Fast and friendly service from a family run  
business, with over 10 years' experience  
**SPECIALISTS IN TILE, SLATE,**  
fibreglass flat roofing, flat felt roofing, uPVC,  
fascias, soffits and guttering, lead work,  
pointing and storm damage

no job too big or too small

For a free quote call

**0121 608 3522 or 07841 046 126**  
Kent Road, Halesowen, B62 8PD

### ROOFING SERVICES

• Gutters Cleaned From £15  
• Small Repairs From £15  
• Pointing Work From £15  
**SPECIAL OFFERS**  
on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters,  
New Roofs/Slate Tile & Felt and  
Garage Roofs  
• Flat roof specialist  
• Insurance work undertaken  
• Est 25 years  
• Discounted for OAPs  
• Exterior Painting  
**Home: 01384 872276 Mobile: 07584 081228**



To advertise your business and reach more than 41,000 potential customers...

**1**

Call us on...  
**01902 319590**

**2**

E-mail us at...  
[mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk)

**3**

Post to...  
Mark Moore, Halesowen Chronicle, Black Lake  
Regional Centre, West Bromwich B70 0QB



## Local Specialists



Our Specialist Section offers you a wide range of local businesses and tradesmen to deal with your needs and requirements.

Skip Hire

**ALL SIZES ALL AREAS BEST PRICES**  
All Size Skips available for immediate delivery  
**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**  
**SCRAP CARS removed for FREE**  
**07920 885774**  
**01384 482542**  
**MT SKIPS**  
If fill 'em We mt 'em

Tiling

### I.C.A. TILING SERVICES

Walls, floors, bathrooms, kitchens and conservatories.  
Ceramic, porcelain, mosaics, slate, marble and all natural stone.

**FULL BATHROOM INSTALLATION AVAILABLE**  
Quality workmanship at competitive prices.  
Fully insured. Portfolio available.

For a free quote call Ian on  
01384 412796 or 07890 894631

MOT's

**MOT**  
**£27.99**  
with this advert  
**FREE RE-TEST**  
Green Garage, Unit 2a Station Road,  
(rear of Gold Cue Snooker Club), Blackheath, B65 0LJ  
**0121 559 6001**



Explore your world with

**star extra TRAVEL**

See us online at:  
[www.expressandstar.com/starextratravel](http://www.expressandstar.com/starextratravel)

UK trips, Europe by coach, air and Eurostar, plus holidays further afield.

Brought to you by the  
**Express & Star**

# Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local

### funeral directors

**N.E.DOWNING**  
(Blackheath) Ltd

Independent  
family run  
Funeral Directors  
24 hour service

Halesowen  
0121 422 2794

[www.nedowning.co.uk](http://www.nedowning.co.uk)

### lost & found

**MISSING FROM**  
**NEWBRIDGE AVENUE**  
Ginger male cat, with white belly and paws, microchipped but not wearing a collar, last seen, Friday, November 13. Any information please call 07957 568140.

LOST—Tipton Road, Sedgley, mid Oct, red & white Lombaro Alveston MT Mountain bike. Reward for return. Phil 07941 367014.

**1**  
**Family**

elderly & disabled

**ELECTRIC ARMCHAIR**, lifts you up and down, with brochure, cost £700 sell £80. 07950 418286.

**MOBILITY SCOOTERS** from £350 can deliver, servicing available. Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384 255019 / 07831 246292.

**WREKIN STAIRLIFTS** reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

**World of Mobility**  
**10% OFF WITH THIS ADVERT T & C APPLY**  
**NEW SCOOTERS FROM £595**  
**USED SCOOTERS FROM £300**  
**RISER RECLINERS FROM £495**  
**STAIRLIFTS/ELECTRIC BEDS**  
We offer excellent customer service and aftercare on all our products.  
Showroom 108C Brettell Lane, Amblecote Stourbridge  
DY8 4BS or call **01384 378252**  
**OPEN MON-SAT FREE PARKING AT REAR**

**2**  
**Leisure Time**

caravans / motorhomes



**BURSTNER SOLANO T710 MOTORHOMES 3000cc**  
28,130 miles cruise control, A/C, sleeps 3, fixed double bed, end bathroom, large fridge/freezer, hob, oven, grill, awning, bike rack, reversing camera, spare wheel, underseated, GPS, overall cover, well maintained, excellent condition, £27,500.  
01691 791544 / 07980 850051

**ELDDIS GTX**  
1999, 18ft, 4-berth, fly screens, blinds, H/C water, separate toilet and shower, full oven, blow air heating, awning, many extras.  
£2,650 o.n.o.  
07497 085154

**FREE TO COLLECTOR** 1970's Bailey 2 berth. Ready to tow away. 01384 232914 or 0761 423765

**LUXURY LOG CABIN**  
Located in Brighthelm. Three bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Secure electric gated private site. 12 month license. Very picturesque.  
£80,000.  
Telephone 07775 610823.

### caravans wanted

**WANTED ALL CARAVANS**  
Any age or condition  
Also motorhomes wanted.  
**TOP PRICES PAID**  
Immediate collection.  
**CALL THOMAS**  
**07776373150**

CARAVAN WANTED can pick up ASAP. Call on 07717 090817.

**fishing**  
FISHING TACKLE WANTED anything considered. New or Old 01902 754011 or 07331 568716  
**FOX CLASSIC-ONE MAN Bivvy**, 3 months old. Used once. £100. No offers. Call 07884 976824.

**Free Ads**  
IT'S FREE. IT'S EASY  
For items upto £250.  
Online at  
bookanad.  
[expressandstar.co.uk](http://expressandstar.co.uk)

### what's on

### markets

**BESCOT SUNDAY MARKET**  
OPEN EVERY SUNDAY  
Banks's Stadium, Walsall FC  
WS1 4SA, FREE PARKING, 9.30-12.00  
07889 975701 All hard standing

**Darvaston Street Market**  
KING STREET 07889 975701

**mind, body & soul**

### massage

**YouTime**  
**Therapy & Massage Spa**  
19, Hereward Rise, Halesowen, B62 8AN  
A unique fusion of  
Swedish, Thai & Japanese massage  
with Aromatherapy & Tai Chi relaxation.  
**Call 07525 126700**  
See us on [www.youtimetherapy.co.uk](http://www.youtimetherapy.co.uk) or  
Facebook/YouTime Spa

**3**  
**Home & Services**

### items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

**HONDA 1.9 KVA generator**, 240v 110v, £175.  
07870 776342.

**HOTTEST TROLLEY** with 4 dishes, pull down lid to keep plates hot, £30 quick sale. 07950 418286.

**MULTIFUEL STOVE**  
Harmony 23 wood or multifuel. Heat output 6kw. Good condition. £400 ono.  
07876 120124.

**WOOD TURNING LATHE**, variable speed, with stand, extras, cost over £1,250, will sell £800 ono. Very good condition. 07910 310424.

### items wanted

**ALL GOLD 9ct £300 per ounce**  
**CASH PAID TODAY**  
**A GENUINE LADY BUYER**  
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft • Lladro • Old coins • Watches • Costume Jewellery • Old toys • Clocks • Paintings • All silver • Chinese items • Old ivory • Military items  
Pre 47 silver coins All war medals etc  
**ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING**  
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

### A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS  
Any gauge or age  
Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans / Roundhouse / Graham / Farish / any live steam, Also Die Cast, Gorgi, Dinky, Spot On.  
01384 836219/07891 713547.  
[thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com](mailto:thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com)



**BRITISH COINS AND MEDALS**  
wanted by private collector.  
Please contact 01902 676540.

**FOOTBALL PROGRAMMES**  
Wanted. Cash paid for pre 1970. Large collections. (300+). After 1970 considered. 0208 5607816.

**READERS ARE ADVISED** to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

**t.v. / home entertainment**

### service

**AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS**  
Free Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection. All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days. Digital aereals, Sky installation. Wall mounts & TV setups.  
**07850 330251**

### specialists at your service

### aerials

**AA DIGITAL AERIALS**  
FREEVIEW / TALK TALK / BT VISION  
**AERIALS FITTED FROM £75**  
**Work Guaranteed Same Day Service**  
**01902 858191**  
**01384 429166**  
**01543 439095**  
**01922 716029**  
**07833 738857**

### alarms/security

**PREMIER ALARMS**  
Supplied and Fitted £195  
Servicing and Repairs  
12 Months Warranty  
All areas covered  
All quotes beaten!  
**Call: 0121 601 9791**

### blinds

**AB-Blinds**  
Super 7  
7 Child Safe Verticals  
Fitted from only £199  
Call 0800 0347111  
[www.ab-blinds.co.uk](http://www.ab-blinds.co.uk)

### building services

**DAVIES & SON BUILDERS**  
Over 35 years experience in the industry. All aspects of building work including:  
Extensions, Loft Conversions, Roofing, Driveways & Landscaping.  
**01902 579592 / 07837 994465**

**carpet & upholstery cleaning**

**A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING**  
OAP discount, Recession Prices.  
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10  
**Call Paul 07870 341089**

### computer repairs

**DOES YOUR PC HAVE PROBLEMS?** Free advice in the callout, affordable. Open 8am-8pm. Call now: PC Aid 0800 234 3468.

### fencing

**PORTWAY FENCING \*SPECIAL OFFER\***  
10 Days of quality fencing  
concrete posts, gravel boards & heavy duty panels supplied and fitted for **£695.00**  
[www.portwayfencing.com](http://www.portwayfencing.com)  
83 Portway Rd, Wednesbury, WS10 7EQ  
Office: 0121 531 5250  
Mobile: 07866 137656

**painters / decorators**

**DECORATOR**  
ALL domestic work undertaken  
Reliable & Affordable  
Special rates for OAPs  
No job too SMALL  
**Call 07957 346 059**

**MTK PAINTER & DECORATOR**  
Competitive quotes OAP discounts  
01384 340930/ 07825 558940.

### house clearances

**ABSOLUTE BEST** cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken.  
07852 172641 / 07710 380327

### removals

**A MAN WITH A VAN** Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

**CALL DEAN NOW:** For all your Removal needs: 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

**CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN.** Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

**CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN.** Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

### roofing

**MG ROOFING** Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

### skip hire

**BLITZ SKIPS**  
AFFORDABLE SKIPS  
2-50 YARD SKIPS AVAILABLE  
PUNJABI SPEAKERS  
MONDAY-SATURDAY  
7AM-6PM  
**01902 870370**  
**0121 517 1111**

**GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE LTD.**  
Mini, midi, maxi, large skips. Fast, friendly & reliable service. Monday to Saturday, 6 day service. Call: 0121 555 6060.

**4**  
**Pets & Animals**

equestrian corner

**ALL READERS** are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

### guns & dogs

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS**  
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

**S.M.K. B19 .177 rifle**, 3.9 x 40 scopes, carry case, as new, £75. 07617 549211.

### pets corner

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer.  
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.  
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.  
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.  
**BEAUTIFUL KITTENS**, 1 black and white, 1 tabby £30 each to ensure good homes. 01902 218944.  
**BICHON FRISE** cross Chihuahua pups, parents can be seen, first injections, vet checked, de flead wormed up to date. £350. 07508 875377. 07910 539352.  
**GERMAN SHEPHERD** pups, 10 weeks old, big boned, wormed to date, black/sable. 01384 785888.  
**TEN WEEK OLD** male kitten, litter trained. Good home essential. £15. 07977 626956.

**THREE KITTENS**, 8 weeks old, male and female, wormed and litter trained. £30 to ensure good home. Telephone 07460 345164.



### WILD ACRE RESCUE Reg Charity.

We have many beautiful black, black and white kittens and cats who desperately need kind, loving and responsible homes. Ages range from nine weeks to ten years.  
All potential homes are subject to home check and re-homing fee.

Please call Pat 07545 679475. Diane 07581 015789. Alisson 07506 712500.  
[wildacre-rescue.co.uk](http://wildacre-rescue.co.uk) and facebook.

### vets

### Express & Star

**THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS**

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

**5**  
**Business & Farming**

### business opportunities

**READERS** are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

**6**  
**Property**

### accommodation to let

**A FURNISHED ROOM** TV, CH, all bills, own kitchen area, £240pcm. Stafford Rd, W109 955840.

**NOTICE TO READERS** it is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**FLAT TO LET WEDNESFIELD**  
fully furnished, refurbished to high standard, with off road parking, would suit working gent, age 45+.  
£75pw.  
01902 304258.

**TIPTON** 1 bed Flats also Beddits available, DSS may be considered. 07306 678175 or 07361 301577.

**WOVLERHAMPTON**, Beddits available, Cannock Road, clean, with 2 power showers. Weekly cleaner, over 35's only. £325. 07815 290660.









## Here's how to use your dating service ...

**Place** your advert call:  
**0844 381 5936**

and follow the simple instructions

**To Place** your ad by text

Simply text **REG** followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send to **80098** **FREE** Standard Network rates apply.

**To Reply** to members from your landline call:  
**0906 500 3955**

calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do **key-it-in promptly** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

**Or Text... REPLY26** (leave space)

box number (leave space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY26 123456 hi get in touch...** then send to **80098** Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.

**Date ONLINE**

**You** can now date online or via your **mobile**

Simply **visit** us at:

**http://dating.expressandstar.com**

**Dates in YOUR region**

**Been left a message? Pickup your replies:**

**0906 500 3957**

calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

**THE** biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet **you.. visit..** **http://dating.expressandstar.com**

### Women seeking men

**REMEMBER:** Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**LADY**, young looking 57, working full-time, very fit and active, looking for a male of similar age for friendship or maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 444 Box No: 419725

**KATIE** 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4294 Box No: 419673

**CATHY**, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420073

**DISCREET** man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pls call, ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 4299 Box No: 418167

**MAGGIE**, 72 yrs young, good sense of humour, well presented, WLTm kind, sincere chappie to share coffee and a chat. Text only to Mailbox no: 531040

**CHRISTINA**, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Tel No: 0906 515 4293 Box No: 410127

**LOUISE** 35, dark hair, blue eyes, attractive ex air hostess, looking for fun times with older male for romantic nights in and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420043

**MAUREEN**, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4275 Box: 405287

38 yr old independent single Mom, knows the benefit of having a good man in the picture. Text only to Mailbox no: 5084796

**ATTRACTIVE** solvent business woman, 36yrs, seeks discreet gent any age for no strings discreet fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4693 Box 419701

**FRANCES**, 45, busty female, loves nights in/out, seeking uncommitted male who can occupy my free time for quality companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420003

**LOUISE**, pretty hairdresser, works long hours, finds it hard to meet a boyfriend, 34yrs, own flat. Text only to Mailbox no: 4192572

**FEMALE**, seeks fun loving male who likes a drink and a laugh, to enjoy erotic experiences with a curvy brunette. Discretion guaranteed. Text only to Mailbox no: 5079311

**JENNI**, single mum seeks single dad, own home, can accommodate and loves spoiling her man. Text only to Mailbox no: 4115106

**MARY**, pretty, friendly, lots of fun, lives in Kidderminster, loves the theatre, opera, ballet, WLTm a lovely, charming, funny, genuine guy, 30s, to settle down with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419883

**FEMALE** fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287

**LOU**, 45, lives in Shrewsbury, WLTm a lady between 42-49 with blue eyes; must be kind, caring and funny to mend my broken heart, someone who likes to curl up on the sofa for cozy nights in. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419855

**FREYA** 24yr old single mum, looking for male for free time frolics, call me if you're interested, it could be fun! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419851

**LISA** 38 slim attractive blonde, looking for a man who will appreciate a feminine, fashionable, fun, romantic sensual woman with a mind of her own. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419839

**SARAH** 38, slim, nice looking, sensual, tactile, no ties, WLTm kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age/look. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419821

**PAT** 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277

**68YR** old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773

**JULIA** 47, looking for genuine, reasonably attractive male friend, may lead to more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419695

**LADY** Penelope seeks her very own Parker (47-58) to go on a voyage of discovery and romance. Text only to Mailbox no: 4550237

**BLACK** lady seeks white male over 60, any location, for friendship and hopefully a lot more. Text only to Mailbox no: 4256384

**CHARLENE**, 24, petite curvy young blonde seeks similar cheeky, fun loving guy for lots of fun and loving. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419597

**JOANNA**, 36, petite, burn haird female, lovely figure seeks loving older male for fun nights out and cosy nights in. Maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419595

**SHARON** 32, attractive black single mum of one, very tactile and passionate, WLTm male 45-65yrs for fun meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419579

**MARIE**, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417

**KAREN** 50, widow, likes swimming, horse riding, keep fit, clay pigeon shooting, GSOH, N/S, non drinker, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415211

**CURRY**, farm girl at heart, 32, 5ft 10, single mum, caring, kind, shy, likes walks, cooking WLTm tactile male farmer for LTR. Text only to Mailbox no: 5067001

**FEMALE** medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429

### MOBILE LOVE MATCH



**WIDOW** 50, blonde hair, GSOH, 5ft 5ins, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415767

**MARIE**, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417

**FEMALE** 50's, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks gent with GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415871

**BLUS** eyed female, blonde hair, slim, GSOH, loving, caring, understanding, seeking similar male, 55-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416989

**AMANDA**, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418117

**CAROL** Ann, sensitive slim brunette very romantic seeks tall handsome male for fun, friendship and lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419385

**KIRSTEN**, 36, attractive, blonde and very bored, seeking open-minded decent male for fun/friendship, 40-60yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419383

**VAL** 41, pretty, cuddly, flirty, seeks similar fun loving male for an uncomplicated no strings relationship. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416601

**FEMALE** fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287

**SUSANNAH**, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341

**MID** naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you won't be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109

**DIVORCED** female, attractive, sensual by nature, OHAC, bored with own company, looking to make life a little more exciting with likeminded man. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418219

**REMEMBER:** Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**JANE**, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985

**LINDA**, 47, brown-eyed blonde, caring, loving and honest, many interests, seeks gentle male to share my lovely evenings with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417211

**JOYCE**, affectionate sensitive widow, bit of a romantic, seeks loving male for lots of TLC. Looks unimportant. It's what's in the heart that matters. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419143

**DEBBIE**, 29, looking for mature professional fun guy, 40-50 to spend good times with. Call me, you have nothing to lose. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419075

**JO** 55, curvy redhead, loves eating out theatre, travel, looking for middle-aged prince charming to sweep me off my feet. Text only to Mailbox No: 4454905

**GENUINE** lady looking for genuine male, age 58-60, for friendship and to have a laugh with. So if that's you would love to hear from you. Text only to Mailbox No: 4537136

**PAT** 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277

**68YR** old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773

**WENDY**, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418369

**EILEEN**, slim green eyed brunette likes meals out and cosy nights in, seeks tall male who would make her laugh and brighten up her day. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418347

**FEMALE** fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287

**FEMALE** seeking gent 55-70, down to earth, nice and intelligent who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417195

**YOUNG** early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410847

**FEMALE**, 50, short blond hair, blue eyes, 5ft 10, slim build, looking for a man 50-55 with salt and pepper hair and GSOH. Text only to Mailbox no: 4453776

**HEATHER**, 34, single very attractive brunette, sensual and interesting, looking to add to life's experiences and adventures with professional male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418193

**JACKIE** lonely and looking for male company, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169

**JAN**, 47, once bitten twice shy! Looking for not complicated fun times. Attractive, discreet, OHAC, you won't be disappointed. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418089

**EMMA**, 43, easygoing female looking to broaden her horizons, WLTm similar male for romantic liaisons. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418009

**SHARON**, 48, tall slim attractive, live alone with no ties, love romanticising and WLTm man for good times together, maybe more. Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417751

**MATURE** male, 50, medium-build, varied interests, seeks true Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and dining out, for friendship or possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419283

**JAN** 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLTm passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418609

**ATTRACTIVE** professional lady, widow, 50's, likes walks, sight seeing, theatre, meals out, seeks genuine, professional gent, 5ft 9ins plus to make life more enjoyable. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418615

**JAN** 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLTm passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418609

**SENSUAL** tactile, attractive female, long blonde hair, blue eyes, loves travel, winning/dining, WLTm genuine male for mutual companionship. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418587

**BROKEN** hearted lady 39 seeks loving male to mend heart age 39/40. Text only to Mailbox No: 4869116

**KAY**, very young 45, fit and active, no ties, seeks similar guy/heart, fun male for fun meets. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418577

**VIVACIOUS** strawberry blonde who knows just what she wants, looking for caring male for spontaneous fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418445

**WENDY**, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418369

**JO** 55, curvy redhead, loves eating out theatre, travel, looking for middle-aged prince charming to sweep me off my feet. Text only to Mailbox No: 4454905

**GENUINE** lady looking for genuine male, age 58-60, for friendship and to have a laugh with. So if that's you would love to hear from you. Text only to Mailbox No: 4537136

**PAT** 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277

**68YR** old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773

**WENDY**, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418369

**EILEEN**, slim green eyed brunette likes meals out and cosy nights in, seeks tall male who would make her laugh and brighten up her day. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418347

**FEMALE** fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287

**FEMALE** seeking gent 55-70, down to earth, nice and intelligent who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417195

**YOUNG** early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410847

**FEMALE**, 50, short blond hair, blue eyes, 5ft 10, slim build, looking for a man 50-55 with salt and pepper hair and GSOH. Text only to Mailbox no: 4453776

**HEATHER**, 34, single very attractive brunette, sensual and interesting, looking to add to life's experiences and adventures with professional male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418193

**JACKIE** lonely and looking for male company, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169

**JAN**, 47, once bitten twice shy! Looking for not complicated fun times. Attractive, discreet, OHAC, you won't be disappointed. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418089

**EMMA**, 43, easygoing female looking to broaden her horizons, WLTm similar male for romantic liaisons. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418009

**SHARON**, 48, tall slim attractive, live alone with no ties, love romanticising and WLTm man for good times together, maybe more. Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417751

**MATURE** male, 50, medium-build, varied interests, seeks true Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and dining out, for friendship or possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419283

**SINGLE** mom, 40yrs, small, not skinny WLTm single dad aged 39 to 45. Text only to Mailbox no: 4295299

**FEMALE**, 36, looking for a genuine guy to wine and dine me, with lots of laughter and fun times. Text only to Mailbox no: 4758012

**JULIE**, attractive early 40's brunette, size 10, varied interests, WLTm male for fun times, good conversations, spoiling and maybe more, status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418007

**TRACY**, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787

**BOSTON** female 56 loyal, intelligent, loves history seeks dependable humorous male for friendship. Text only to Mailbox no: 4751421

**TRACY**, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787

**THEA**, 36, extrovert brunette, curly hair, rugby fan, WLTm genuine male who will accept her as she is. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417763

**ATTRACTIVE** kind, caring, single lady, loves animals, WLTm uniformed office for genuine, sincere relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417623

**ELLEN** 45, attractive, with statuesque curvy figure, looking for an uncomplicated relationship with understanding male friend. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417663

**STEVE** 39, 5ft 9ins, medium build, likes walks, seeks female, slim-medium build, single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396709

**6FT** well built guy, nicely groomed looking for fun times, nights out with slim/medium build attractive lady 35-55. Text only to Mailbox no: 5132460

**ALAN**, 55 year old builder, muscular build, five foot ten, fit, likes the gym, pubs, clubs and days out, seeks female with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419975

**ATTRACTIVE**, fit, sporty, tactile, youthful black male seek relationship with lady. N/S. Text only to Mailbox no: 4851614

**WIDOWER**, quiet, easygoing, slim, 5ft 7 tall, smart, varied interests, seeks slim/lady, 50 to 65 yrs for caring relationship. Text only to Mailbox no: 4906469

**TIM**, easygoing honest male, discreet, uninhibited, seeks similar non-conformist averagely attractive, N/S female up to 65. Notts. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375065

**SUBMISSIVE** 44year old WLTm dominant female 25-30 years who enjoys role play with friendship and maybe possible relationship. Text only to Mailbox no: 5084114

**MARK** 40, 5ft 9ins, brown hair/eyes, attractive, good looking, OHAC/business, likes walks, day trips, cinema, seeks similar female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 348239

**PROFESSIONAL** male, 41, own business, likes to enjoy life, clubs, pubs, cinema, gym, seeks similar female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360283

**MALE** 45yrs old, self-employed motor trader/mechanic, medium build, green eyes, average looks. I am a nice genuine and honest person looking for similar lady to share a honest permanent relationship and happy times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418709

**GENT** 55, slightly mad, but not bad, will make you glad you answered his ad! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408973

**MIKE** late 60's fit, active, genuine and generous, very passive seeks assertive lady any age/looks for mutual benefits. Text only to Mailbox no: 4747481

**STOCKY**, bold, unhappily married man, seeks similar very discreet female for exciting rendezvous. Text only to Mailbox no: 4757315

**ATTRACTIVE** tall black male would like to meet female for day time fun and discreet meetings, any age or location. Text only to Mailbox no: 5077442

**MATURE** male, 50, medium-build, varied interests, seeks true Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and dining out, for friendship or possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419283

**REMEMBER:** Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**GENTLEMAN**, 57, slightly mad but not bad, who will make you ever so glad that you answered his ad! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419307

**ADVENTUROUS** 35yr old, slim, dark hair, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235

**JAMES** GSOH, likes theatre, meals out, socialising, seeking easy going female, 35-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417469

**PETE** 47, enjoys walking, meals out, seeks female, age/looks/status unimportant, with similar interests for adult fun text only. Text only to Mailbox no: 5063152

**MALE** 60s WLTm genuine fun lady, 50/60s nights in or out, likes swimming, walks, music, good food etc for friendship or more. Text only to Mailbox no: 4852727

**TIM**, easygoing honest male, discreet, uninhibited, seeks similar non-conformist averagely attractive, N/S female up to 65. Notts. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375065



# Character all of its own

By John Griffiths

**Looks often deceive when it comes to the automotive world, but not when it comes to the huge 'shoulders' of the latest special edition Moto Guzzi Griso.**

These shoulders, bursting out from under the petrol tank on either side, are the hefty cylinders of the Guzzi's trademark transverse V-twin.

The much-improved and modernised 1,200cc unit is the most powerful engine ever produced under the legendary Italian name.

With 110bhp and 108Nm of torque, it's also up there with the most powerful of the air-cooled genre.

Open the throttle and you know the Griso's muscular looks aren't 'all show, no go': it feels like riding a charging rhino.

It's a handsome piece of Italian architecture in its black and silver trim like 007 in a dinner suit – but ready for action and underneath a bit of a brute, too.

The £10,935 machine is as solidly built as its looks suggest, with huge exhausts which curl artistically around the bike and into the uniquely styled two into one exhaust at the rear.

As the manifolds swing around to the left on the right is an oil cooler radiator which strangely seems to work as a piece of asymmetric art.

While it has somewhat classical looks, it's contrasting design elements are part of its appeal – from the big, round headlight at the front to the thoroughly thoroughly modern high intensity LED tail lights.

The seat height is a fairly average 800mm, with the foot pegs set high, and slightly back, in racing style. T

hat allows the rider to easily change position on the move but also supports a natural, leaning forward position to the new and wider bars.

Start the engine and the Guzzi is full over character. Blip the throttle and the torque from that big transverse twin twists underneath you like a live animal, while at slow speeds it seems you can feel every ignition stroke, like a beating heart.

Once the speedo starts to climb, it all smooths out and you can enjoy the satisfying exhaust growl.

### Running

Not that you'll often need or want to explore the higher reaches of the rev range towards that 7,500rpm peak power point. Most of the time you're running at half that with a little movement of the throttle enough to induce a surge of acceleration, no matter what gear you're in.

Between overtaking surges it's a big, comfortable cruiser, albeit one with sharper handling than the low rider or bagger style machine.

Theoretical top speed is 140mph, but in practice that is more likely to be limited by the physical demands on the rider as the air pressure builds, as with other 'naked' bikes.

But the Griso was constructed to perform as a sports machine, with a strong and stiff high tensile steel frame and a single-sided aluminium swingarm which doubles as the shaft drive housing.

It turns in rapidly and the adjustable suspension provides a reassuringly neutral reaction through corners.



.....  
**At times capable of almost brutal power, at others a relaxed cruiser.**  
 .....

The dampers smooth out the bumpy bits, too.

Braking also comes from the sports world with a powerful system from Brembo, the Formula One experts, with 'wave' style discs for maximum heat dispersion.

This new Griso, especially in its new

special edition colours, is something different. Stylish in a interesting combination of old and new. At times capable of almost brutal power, at others a relaxed cruiser – all with a bit of a raw edge imparted by its unique transverse V-twin.

It's an individual's machine, with a character all of its own.



## THINK YOU CAN'T AFFORD A NEW CAR?

**WHAT A LOAD OF SCRAP.**



We'll give you **£2,000\*** scragpage for your old car to put towards a brand new Vauxhall across our range.^

**CONTACT US TODAY**



**Dudley Motor Company**  
 Dudley  
 01384 454100  
**Halesowen Motor House**  
 Halesowen  
 0121 5030001

**Stourbridge Motor House**  
 Stourbridge  
 01384 447 970  
**T Wall Garages**  
 Kingswinford  
 01384 288 333



**Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 12.7 (22.3) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 88.3 (3.2). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 373 - 85g/km.\***

\*£2,000 Scragpage Allowance towards a new car is offered on condition that the traded-in car has been registered in your name as the owner for at least 90 days and the registration document is in your name and address. Offer available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 units (purchase only). All other sales categories are excluded. Offer applies to selected new vehicles ordered between 8 October 2015 and 15 December 2015. ^Excludes VIVA, ADAM JAM, New Corsa Sting, New Corsa Sting R. Ts&Cs apply. Participating Retailers only. UK supplied vehicles only. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.



# Upgrades for Volvo SUV

By Sharon Walters

Volvo Car UK is enhancing the performance of its award-winning XC90 with a series of Polestar-developed upgrades. This is the first time that Polestar, Volvo's performance brand, has focused its attention on the new seven-seat SUV.

Known as Polestar Performance Optimisation, the upgrades improve the power and torque figures of both the D5 diesel and T6 petrol Drive-E engines, particularly at medium revs where it's most effective.

They also make the accelerator responses even quicker, and alter the settings of the automatic gearbox to provide faster gearchanges and prevent gearshifts during rapid cornering, which could unsettle the car. These quicker and more precise responses to driver commands not only make the driving experience more dynamic, they ensure the car responds predictably during high-speed driving.



The upgrades have been developed and designed by the engineers of Polestar and the racing drivers of Polestar Cyan Racing, the official motorsport partner to Polestar.

Thed Björk, reigning Scandinavian Touring Car Championship (STCC) champion and Polestar Cyan Racing driver, said: "The new Polestar optimisation is about making the car more dynamic and responsive to drive."

"We use the same philosophy as when optimising our race cars, to create a completely balanced package. And this is exactly what we have focussed on with the new-generation optimisations for Volvo cars: powertrain optimisation for real-life driving."

## Increased

The maximum output of the D5 Drive-E engine is increased to 233 hp and 500 Nm of torque (up from 225 hp and 470 Nm), while the T6 Drive-E is boosted to 334 hp and 440 Nm (from 320 hp and 400 Nm).

Polestar Performance Optimisations have also been released for the D4 diesel and T5 petrol Drive-E engines in other Volvo models.

Like the upgrades to the D5 and T6 engines in the XC90, the aim is to boost medium-rev performance and to make the car's entire drivetrain react more quickly and accurately to driver commands.

With the Polestar Performance Optimisation, the D4 Drive-E offers 200 hp and 440 Nm (up from 190 hp and 400 Nm), while the output of the T5 Drive-E is raised to 253 hp and 400 Nm (from 245 hp and 350 Nm).

The D4 Drive-E upgrades are available in the S60, V40, V40 Cross Country, V60 and XC60, and the T5 Drive-E enhancements are offered in the V40 and V40 Cross Country.

The price of the D4, D5\*, T5 and T6 Pole-



**'We use the same philosophy as when optimising our race cars, to create a completely balanced package'**

star upgrades is £835, including VAT and fitting.

The work can be carried out at any authorised Volvo dealer, and should take about 30 minutes to complete.

Nick Connor, Managing Director of Volvo Car UK, said: "These new Polestar Performance Optimisations make our cars and Drive-E engines even more dynamic and desirable. The combination of increased power and torque – especially at medium revs – and the changes to make the entire drivetrain more responsive ensure that

owners will really feel the difference these optimisations make."

Finally, until the end of December 2015, all model-year 2005 to model-year 2015 all-wheel-drive Volvos can be upgraded with the Polestar Performance Optimisation at the discounted price of £620, saving £215.

The Polestar upgrades do not affect the certified emissions and fuel consumption figures, service intervals or Volvo warranty cover. For more information on the Volvo range, Drive-E engines and Polestar, please visit [www.volvocars.com/uk](http://www.volvocars.com/uk)

## Brindley Honda Halesowen have moved to West Bromwich

**HONDA**  
The Power of Dreams



## Nothing else has changed though!

All the staff are now in their new positions at our other sites.

So be it Sales, Service or MOT you require – you're still in the very capable hands of familiar staff with many years of Honda expertise.

We are also offering an extensive range of courtesy cars or our free pick-up and drop-off facility when your car is having its service.

**For everything Honda call Brindley today.**

**Tel. 0121 629 0990. Web. [brindley.co.uk/honda](http://brindley.co.uk/honda)**

Branches also at Cannock and Wolverhampton



Millennium Park, Swan Lane, West Bromwich B70 0NR  
Tel. 0121 629 0990



Walsall Road  
Cannock  
WS11 0JP  
Tel. 01543 406609



West Street  
off Stafford Road  
Wolverhampton WV10 6HT  
Tel. 01902 690601

**free**  
**£500 FREE FUEL**  
**ON ALL 65 PLATE**  
**DELIVERY MILEAGE CARS**  
Purchase before 30th November 2015 to qualify



# 65 plate sales pass 100,000

By Sharon Walters

**UK market leader Ford recorded 101,598 65-plate registrations during September and October, as it stretched its sales leads in total vehicle, car and commercial vehicle (CV) sales are more than double those of its nearest rival.**

According to the official October sales figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT):

- Ford is the UK market leader in total vehicle, car and CV sales. Fiesta is UK best-seller; Transit Custom and Transit first and second in CV sales

- Transit range is second in UK total vehicle sales

- Ford's car sales lead increased 20 per cent, compared with October 2014

- Ford has five models in the UK Top 20 – Fiesta (1st), Focus (4th), Transit Custom (9th), Transit (16th) and Kuga (18th)

Andy Barratt, Ford of Britain chairman and managing director, said: "Ford is building on the strength of its core models in the UK market, while stretching into new segments with models such as Mustang, Mondeo Vignale and Ford Edge.

"Fiesta is in its seventh year as the UK market leader, while the success of our extended Ford CV family is demonstrated by Transit range sales exceeding those of any car – apart from Fiesta.

"Our strong results are a direct result of the wider range of these exciting new models – delivered through our dealer partners, who make up the strongest network in the UK."

The official figures released by the SMMT today show that total car sales in October were down 1.1 per cent to 177,664 units, compared with October 2014.

Ford car sales were 22,081, 6,190 registrations ahead of its nearest rival. For the year to date (end October) total UK car sales were 2,274,550, up 6.4 per cent compared with the same period in 2014. Ford car sales for this period were 290,409, some 62,418 registrations ahead of its nearest rival.

Ford is also the clear leader in retail car sales, which most accurately reflect the preferences of private buyers.

For October, Ford's retail car sales beat a shrinking retail market and increased 8.2 per cent, compared with October 2014. At 13.1 per cent, Ford's retail car sales share was 5.1 percentage points ahead of its nearest rival, and for the year to date, Ford's retail car sales share was 12.3 per cent, a lead of 4.2 percentage points.

## Significant

The Ford Fiesta is the UK's top seller and in October it recorded 8,577 registrations, 3,516 ahead of its nearest rival. With total registrations of 116,631 for the year to date, the Ford Fiesta is the UK best seller by a significant margin – 38,735 sales and 1.7 percentage points of market share ahead of its nearest competitor.

Ford's broad customer appeal across its car range is demonstrated by Fiesta, B-MAX, Focus, C-MAX, Kuga and Galaxy all occupying top three places in their respective market segments.

Ford Kuga sales are at the highest level since it was launched with October registrations of 2,343, up 12.0 per cent, compared with October 2014, and sales for the year to date of 27,948, up 33.1 per cent, compared with the same period in 2014.



**'The Ford Fiesta is the UK's top seller and in October it recorded 8,577 registrations'**

UK commercial vehicle sales in October were down 3.6 per cent at 34,228, compared with October 2014. At 8,344, total sales of Ford CVs were up 10.9 per cent, compared with October 2014.

## Total

For the year to date total UK CV sales were up 16.3 per cent at 360,168, compared with the same period in 2014. Total sales of Ford CVs for the year to date were up 22.3 per cent at 89,177, compared

with 2014. Ford light commercials sales for the year to date were up from 14,589 to 19,539, compared with the same period in 2014 and Ford medium commercials sales for the year to date were up from 58,316 to 69,638, compared with 2014.

The full availability of Ford's extended CV family has helped deliver this strong sales momentum. Fiesta Van, Transit Connect, Transit Custom, Transit and Ranger all lead their respective market segments.

## Express Repairs for Minor Accident Damage



✓ Bumper scuffs

✓ Kerbed alloys



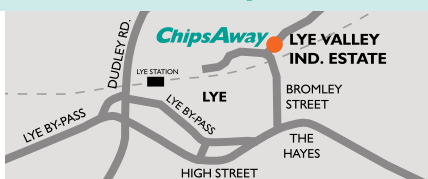
✓ Paintwork scratches

✓ Dented panels

**Local: 01384 429568**  
**Mobile: 07500 858428**

Email us: [halesowen.stourbridge@chipsaway.co.uk](mailto:halesowen.stourbridge@chipsaway.co.uk)  
[www.chipsawayhalesowenandstourbridge.co.uk](http://www.chipsawayhalesowenandstourbridge.co.uk)

Visit us: Unit 9 Lye Valley Industrial Estate,  
Bromley Street, Lye DY9 8HX



**ChipsAway**

Scratches and scuffs won't dent your pocket



• Free Estimates • Lifetime Guarantee • Most Repairs Completed in One Day

**VIRTUAL**

**Express & Star**

## MOTORSHOW

**KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST MANUFACTURER & DEALER OFFERS**

**BY VISITING OUR SHOW...**



**REVIEW YOUR NEW CAR BY VIDEO BEFORE YOU TEST DRIVE!**

DRIVING EXPERIENCE - COST OF OWNERSHIP - DESIGN & BUILD - RANGE

**> VIDEO REVIEWS > DEALERSHIP INFORMATION**



[expressandstar.com/drivetime](http://expressandstar.com/drivetime)



# Runners spoiled for choice with courses

ATHLETES from Dudley King-swinford Running Club were spoilt for choice at the weekend.

The club athletes had number of races from which to choose, even if local conditions weren't exactly conducive to fast times.

Despite the severe conditions the weekend started at the County Raceway in Stratford Upon Avon with the Shakespeares 10k over two laps of traffic-free tarmac.

Paula Alder was first back for the blue hoops when he came in 121st in 50.15.

Steve Davies clocked a personal best of 52.57 to take 159th and Matt Hawker finished ten places behind him, 169th, in 53.33.

Twenty four hours later another trio took on some more testing terrain and were facing weather conditions that were considerably worse.

Sally McConville competed in the Beckbury Trail race.

This trail is 5.6 miles of off-road running between the villages of Beckbury and Badger and she crossed the line in 59.26 to take 127th place.

And James Wright came home in 1.16.58 in 44th place and Andy Sprague was not too far behind claiming 49th place in 1.18.17 over a more testing course of the Wrekin Wrecker zig-zagging up and down the Wrekin on numerous occasions to complete the 8.1 mile distance.

In far warmer conditions Ingrid Cain put months of training to the test in the Valencia Marathon finishing in a very creditable 4.24.47 to take 11,717th place overall but 32nd in her category.

# We deserve success, says Chambers

SKIPPER Adam Chambers believes Walsall deserve success this season.

The in-form Saddlers currently sit top of the League One table with 32 points from their opening 16 games.

"There have been some ups and downs throughout my time here but I think the standard has now risen," Chambers said.

"It's been a long journey but for me, you can see that improvement. The standard of player has risen and players that have come in have flourished in the environment here. Some of them were out of the game or not playing but they have come here, worked with the staff and we have got the best out of them."

"The club has done some big things over the past few years and has really moved forward. The fans, the staff, the office staff, the chairman - they all deserve success."

# Single goal negates Old Hales work

**OHHC 0 Worcester 1**

OLD Halesonians Men's 1st XI put in a gritty performance against runaway leaders Worcester in their Warwick Printing Midlands One league home game but unfortunately came away pointless as they were defeated 1-0.

Against a side averaging five goals a game and with a 100 per cent record, Hales knew they were in for a battle and one where they had to do without top scorer Tom Bulteel.

To add to their problems Cole Hickman had to pull out five minutes into the game with sight problems. Hales, though, more than held their own against their opponents and showed again why they have

one of the league's best defensive records.

Despite Worcester's creativity, they struggled to unlock a tight Hales backline.

Worcester mainly looked to score from short corners, but were denied by keeper Steve Charlton, goal line clearances from Paul Woodall and Mark Curzon and blocks by Chris Wattlely and Ben Hughes.

Hales should have scored late on in the first half, when Ash Greaves was played in in front of goal.

Worcester's pressure eventually paid off early in the second period, when a short corner was rocketed into the top corner of the net. Hales tried hard to get back into the game, with Tom Durnford's short corner effort saved by the opposition keeper, but their

efforts were not to be enough as they struggled to create enough chances.

There were plenty of positives to take from the game. They travel to recently-relegated Hampton-In-Arden on Saturday.

Other club sides fared better, with both the fifth team and the youngsters in the Badgers recording victories and the 3rd XI drawing, but the 2nd XI and Ladies sides were both defeated.

**Stourport 8 Ladies 1st XI 0**  
**Solihull Blossomfield 4 Mens 2nd XI 3**  
**Mens 3rd XI 2 Stratford 2**  
**Khalsa 1 Mens 5th XI 3**  
**Badgers XI 6 Evesham 1**

# Last score of game sinks Old Hales side

**Old Halesonians 15 Bromsgrove 16**

**THIS had the signs of a classic local derby which would be equally contested in the windy rainy conditions.**

Bromsgrove kicked off in front of a full Presidents Day crowd who weathered the storm in more ways than one.

Hales quickly got into their stride with a couple of dominant set scrums, front row Matt Young, Pete Fitzgerald and Rich Taylor showing their combined force.

Early exchanges saw the home side penalised twice which was to be a theme for the game.

James Upton, the visiting full back, scored both and Bromsgrove continued with pressure down the hill but Hales defence stood strong. The visitors were unable to capitalise on good line out possession as Hales drove them off the ball.

Hales found it difficult to get any reasonable forward continuity against a competitive opposition. Hales tried to make ground with Tom Jordan, Fitzgerald and Max Macfarlane .

**Collected**

This pressure after 14 minutes saw the ball collected by a visiting back under pressure, he tried to kick clear but was charged down by Andy Robinson for Andy Holloway to score an unconverted try .

In the second half at 45 minutes Hales had the wind and slope advantage which they took with early pressure. Kicking for touch with a line out catch and drive, all forwards and backs joined the drive for scrum half Dave Hadkiss to touch down for a 10-6 lead.

The home side seemed to lift and maintain the pressure but still with too many penalties. Hales again went on the attack with Carl Robinson, Hooper and Barkley combining well to make ground into the Grove half. Forwards in support kept possession, Hadkiss sent the ball along the backs, Hooper to wing Luke Smith who beat his man to the line.

This should have been the start of a Hales victory but the visitors had other ideas. From a maul Phil Horton, Bromsgrove No.8, went over to pull the score back to 15-11 with minutes to go.

Matt Edgar scored in the last move of the game to win.

# Brummies sign teenager Jack



**From left, Graham Drury, new signing Jack Smith and Tony Mole. Pic Claire Swatman.**

TEENAGE hotshot Jack Smith has become the second member of Birmingham's 2016 septet.

The 16-year-old joins fellow youngster Jack Parkinson-Blackburn on a 3.00 average with the pair expected to begin next season as the Surestop Brummies' reserve duo.

Smith guested for the Perry Barr outfit in their final seven meetings of the 2015 campaign

# Yozza picks up his fifth darts ranking title in classic

TIPTON'S Jamie Hughes picked up his fifth BDO ranking title after going all of the way in the Jersey Classic at the weekend.

The Black Country thrower also reached the semi-finals of the Jersey Open during the three-day festival at the Royal Hotel St Helier, writes Craig Birch.

Hughes bowed out of the Open to a formidable Darryl Fitton, who was in imperious form as he claimed a 4-1 victory.

But there was no stopping 'Yozza' in the Classic, going up the gears from the last 32 when he put out Jersey's Edward Le Bailly 4-1.

Another impressive 4-1 victory over Martin Atkins put him into the quarter-finals, where he whitewashed former world champion Andy Fordham 4-0.

A close-run last four clash with Welshman Jim Williams saw him nudge through to the final 4-3, setting up the decider with Scott Waites, who he beat 5-4.

Hughes, who is ranked No 4 with the BDO, is preparing to return to the World Championship at Lakeside, having made his debut there at the start of the year.

He'll need to see off Scotland's Ross Montgomery to emulate his second round run and meet either Gary Robson or Madars Razma in the next phase.

Hughes was instrumental in England winning in Turkey recently where he was part of a quartet of darters who were going for broke.

It was Hughes' debut in the competition and he helped to win the team title and keep the overall crown.

# Glassboys Cup ticket details out

STOURBRIDGE have announced ticket sales for the FA Cup second round tie against Eastleigh.

Tickets for the December 5 fixture will go on sale to season ticket holders and members on Sunday from 10am until 1pm and next Monday from 7-10pm at the War Memorial Ground.

Seating in the main stand will cost £15. Adult standing will also cost £15 or £10 for OAPs and children.

The club said there will be a maximum amount of 170 standing tickets only available for The Shed End.

There will also be a restricted amount of unreserved seating available in the Main Stand.

Tickets will be sold on a first-come-first-served basis.

# Final whistle



THE ONLY READ

FOR REAL FANS

EVERY MONDAY

If you want the definitive read on the weekend football action there is only one place to go – Final whistle supplement in the Express & Star.

Packed with match reports, infographics and player reaction, Final whistle offers the best football coverage around. With expert analysis from star pundits like Kevin Phillips, as well as graphics of the key moments, tables and stats, make sure you get your copy.

**A real football read for real football fans.**

TO ADVERTISE IN FINAL WHISTLE CALL OUR

EXPERIENCED SALES TEAM ON 01902 31 31 31

An Express & Star supplement

**Express & Star**





SPORTS DESK 01902 319531

CHRON.SPORT@EXPRESSANDSTAR.CO.UK

## Swimmers are heading for the final

ROUND 2 of the West Midlands National League, held at Leamington Spa at the weekend, was an important gala for the members of Halesowen Swimming Club.

Having won Round 1, the team needed to come either first or second in Round 2 to qualify for the final in which will be staged in December.

However, this was not going to be easy with other teams having the same ambition and talent.

The evening started well with Halesowen swimmers in second place to Boldmere after the first 10 races.

Determined swims meant that the two clubs maintained these positions throughout the gala.

Halesowen pulled out all the stops with a spectacular display on the final race, winning the open men's freestyle relay by almost one full length.

The team achieved their required second place and qualified for the Final for the first time since 2008.

Double event winners were Richard Spoor, Robert Jennings and Niamh Larkin.

First places also went to Jacob Bailey, Olivia Jay, Jack Simpson and Katherine Morrice.

The men's open relay team proved unbeatable winning both the medley and freestyle events and included Mark Laing, Josh Bradley and Callum Tinsdale.

The boys 15-year medley relay team were also winners and the squad included Ryan Larkin, Jakob Baker and James Cuthbert.

Final point scores were Boldmere A 243, Halesowen 212, Leicester Sharks A 178, City of Hereford 168, Wolverhampton 133, Blythe Barracudas 111.

## Villa's defender Amavi is ruled out for rest of season

VILLA defender Jordan Amavi will miss the rest of the season with a cruciate knee ligament injury.

The 21-year-old suffered the injury during France Under-21s' win over Northern Ireland on Thursday.

A Villa statement read: "Aston Villa can confirm defender Jordan Amavi has been ruled out for the rest of the 2015-16 Premier League season with a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee.

"Everyone at the club wishes Jordan a speedy recovery and we look forward to seeing him back on a football pitch as soon as possible."

The left-back was injured after making a challenge in the second half of the European Under-21 qualifier in Guingamp.

Losing Amavi is a significant blow to new Villa boss Remi Garde, who replaced Tim Sherwood earlier this month.

Amavi has made 12 appearances since joining from Nice in the summer and was recalled by Garde for his first game in charge as Villa drew 0-0 with Manchester City immediately prior to the international break.

## Old Hales dominate in bad conditions

**Bromsgrove 5 Old Halesonians 10**

THE game at Finstall Park was punctuated with handling errors from both sides all afternoon.

Old Hales took the game to Bromsgrove early on and their scrum was a dominant force.

After several forays into the Bromsgrove 22 Old Hales fly half Tom Harris jinked his way to the try line only to lose control of the ball as he dived over.

Bromsgrove's kicking game played a big part in turning the game around and they had the better of the second quarter.

Old Hales defended well, particularly Sol Rogers who was in the action all over the pitch. Finstall Park was a bad day for the visitors.

**Rugby**

nally, the Bromsgrove pressure paid off and their No.7 exploited a gap to score after 26 minutes. The remainder of the half was scoreless.

Old Hales started the second half with more purpose and managed to put a few decent moves together.

After 54 minutes play one of the Bromsgrove's props was shown a yellow card for an infringement at a scrum. Two minutes later a Bromsgrove player suffered a serious knee injury which required an ambulance. After a short break the game resumed on another pitch. With a prop in the sin bin Bromsgrove were unable to field a full front row so the scrums became uncontested and Old Hales dominance in this department was nullified.

However, from an attacking scrum the Harris brothers weaved their magic. Scrum half Chris Harris passed the ball to Tom Harris who slipped the ball back to his brother on the run around. A well-timed inside pass from Chris found Jon Harris split the defence to score a well worked try.

With the scores level Old Hales team were revitalised. Louis Madican caught the ball in mid-flight and landed over the line for a try.

## Tipton look more positive with a draw

**Wellington 1 Tipton Town 1**

TIPTON Town are still without a West Midlands League Premier Division victory this season, but a fine committed performance could be a sign of an imminent upturn in fortunes with Town well worth their point.

Wellington began very much on the front foot, despite a couple of useful Tipton raids forward.

Glen Segust's smart snapshot in only the second minute teasing new Tipton keeper, Sebastian Mann.

Matt Williams' reverse shot clipped the Tipton crossbar with keeper, Mann powerless.

Gagandeep Kullar then denied the home club's surge down the left flank and featured prominently in attack for the visitors on 10 minutes, when he made space for Ravi Sangha whose reverse shot might just have given Tipton the lead.

Following a couple of quite useful Tipton raids it was the home side who stormed in front on 18 minutes.

A spell of sustained pressure finally breached the Tipton rearguard when a deep curling left wing cross was nonchalantly headed home by Josh Hunt.

Tipton reacted positively, but had to wait until just shy of the hour-mark and once the hosts' Glen Segust had been sent off, to equalise.

Joe Crawford completed a fine attack down the left flank by squaring the ball to Ravi Sangha to score.

Kullar was having a very positive influence for Tipton and his link-up play with Ravi Sangha created problems for Wellington.

On the stroke of half-time Kullar almost caught out the home club when he suddenly fired from distance, fully 30yards, the ball skidding narrowly wide.

## Relief after Lambert is safe from attacks

THERE were concerns for Albion forward Rickie Lambert when it emerged he was in Paris during the terrorist attacks.

Lambert had travelled to the French capital with his wife during the international break but Albion reassured fans the forward was safe.

Albion tweeted: "The club have spoken to Rickie Lambert. He and his wife are safe."

Meanwhile, the head of the organising committee for Euro 2016 has promised France will take the 'necessary decisions' to ensure next summer's tournament takes place in safety.

# YELTZ SHARE AFTER BATTLE

**Halesowen Town 1 Barwell 1**

**KEYON Reffell led a second-half fight-back to deservedly earn a point for Halesowen with a fine strike in an even, mid-table contest.**

The visitors started brightly and Alex Tomkinson headed just wide for a 3rd minute corner.

Seconds later Callum Woodward fired a 20-yard shot just wide and home goalkeeper Dan Platt stayed alert to grab the ball after seven minutes when Anthony Carney almost latched onto a long ball forward.

Halesowen's only real effort of the first period came from Aaron Daniels, but he shot weakly at Liam Castle in the eighth minute after being set up by Danny Bragoli in a neat move.

Barwell snatched the lead in the 27th minute when Carney gained possession from Jay Denny and unleashed a terrific 25-yard shot into the bottom corner of the net.

**Glancing**

Eddy Nisevic drove wide after 38 minutes and Jamie Towers went close with a 40th minute glancing header in further Barwell pressure before the interval.

Halesowen stepped up a gear in the second half and Reece Hales set the tone by curling a 47th minute free-kick just wide before Castle touched the ball away for two Yeltz corners.

Lively Reffell then chased a 51st minute long ball to strike the side-netting before doing well down the right to square the ball and tee up Danny Bragoli to plant his shot just wide from the edge of the area.

Carney struck the home cross bar in the 54th minute but the visitors were soon punished with a deserved Yeltz 62nd minute equaliser. Asa Charlton switched play to the right flank, allowing Luke Connolly to find Reffell and he flashed a wide-angled shot across Castle into the bottom corner.

Late on, Platt saved low down after Nisevic fired in an 85th minute shot and in the final minute substitute Jean-Michel Gueyes elected to play the ball out wide to Isaac Cooper instead of taking the opportunity to shoot.

## Jordanne sets sights on Masters



**Jordanne Whiley pays a visit to the Ball Crew Training session at the Lee Valley Tennis Centre**

THE Paralympics is the peak of wheelchair tennis so for Jordanne Whiley the upcoming Masters tournament at Lee Valley is a good barometer ahead of next year.

The 23-year-old from Halesowen has already made history in her sport.

Winning all four Grand Slams in the doubles last year, Whiley completed the clean sweep alongside Japanese partner Yui Kamiji.

This summer she turned her attention to singles, and was immediately successful, winning the US Open in September. The Masters at the Olympic Park from December 2-6 pits the eight best players in the world against each other. Whiley is seeded fourth.

"It's just one below a Grand Slam so it's really important," she said. "I class it as a major. I treat it like I would a Grand Slam."

"Paralympics is the pinnacle, every Paralympic athlete wants to get a gold medal at the Paralympics," she added.

Born with brittle bone disease like her dad Keith, Whiley has been playing wheelchair tennis since the age of three. By the age of 14 she was Britain's youngest ever national champion and just after she turned 20 she won a bronze medal at London 2012 with fellow Brit Lucy Shuker. Then in 2014 when she and Kamiji won the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open.

**Cuddle Up This Christmas...**

**...with a NEW Fireplace**

Order now for Guaranteed Christmas Fitting

**OVER 100 FIRES AND SURROUNDS ON DISPLAY**

**JUBILEE FIREPLACES LTD**  
0121 557 3111

Jubilee Fireplaces Ltd,  
High Street,  
Princes End,  
Tipton DY4 9JF

[WWW.JUBILEEFIRES.CO.UK](http://WWW.JUBILEEFIRES.CO.UK)